



Jordan Times

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Two U.N. observers wounded in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Two United Nations military observers were wounded in Somalia on Friday, one seriously, when faction fighters opened fire on their unarmed vehicle in Mogadishu, U.N. sources said. Witnesses said several jeeps converged on the U.N. four-wheel-drive car in the southern sector of the divided capital and opened fire, shooting Egyptian Major Mustafa Sidki in the back at close range and injuring a Czech observer in the head. Doctors said three Somali guards were killed. The attack coincided with a fresh explosion of violence and looting at Mogadishu port, where relief supplies were being unloaded for millions of famine-stricken Somalis. Maj. Sidki was rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment and would be evacuated by air to Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya, U.N. sources said. The Czech did not need hospital treatment and was taken to the U.N.'s Mogadishu headquarters, which refused any official comment on the attack. The two men are part of a 50-strong U.N. military team monitoring a ceasefire between Mogadishu's two main clan factions, led by Mohammed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi Muhammad. U.S. military begins airlift, page 2.

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Chechen leader arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister of the Chechen Republic Yarsaghi Mohammad arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day visit. Mr. Mohammad told Jordan Television in a statement upon arrival that the purpose of his visit was to convey to the Jordanian people the congratulations of the people of the Chechen-Ingush on the success of the surgery His Majesty King Hussein underwent. He said he would also hold talks with Jordanian officials on ways of enhancing relations between the two countries. Mr. Mohammad was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat.

S. Arabia to test raid sirens

RIYADH (AP) — The civil defence department announced Friday it would soon test air raid sirens in the capital Riyadh and in the eastern and northern provinces. The announcement, read over the state-run radio and television, warned the public "not to be disturbed" by the tests. There was no reference to the heightened military activity in the region as warplanes from the United States, Britain and France began policing a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq. A major air base at Dhahran in the Eastern Province is the operational site for some of the Western warplanes involved in the operation. Other jets are flying from the airport carrier USS Independence in the Gulf.

Kuwait to hold elections on Oct. 5

NICOSIA (R) — The Kuwaiti cabinet has set Oct. 5 as the date for the emirate's first general elections in seven years. Kuwait's official news agency KUNA Thursday quoted the minister of state for cabinet affairs as saying the council of ministers had approved a decree setting the date. Dhari Abdullah Al Othman said after an extraordinary cabinet meeting the decree had been deferred to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for final approval and would be published in the official gazette Sunday.

Assad meets Barzani

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met with a top Iraqi Kurdish dissident on Friday and expressed sympathy for those forced to live under the current government in Baghdad. Mr. Assad's spokesman said Mr. Assad met with Massoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the day after U.S.-led allied southern Iraq. The Syrian leader and Mr. Barzani discussed the "sufferings of the Iraqi people under the rule of the current Iraqi regime," Joubran Kourieh told Reuters. Mr. Barzani, leading a high-ranking KDP delegation, arrived in the Syrian capital on Saturday.

Britons warned to stay away from Algeria

LONDON (R) — Britain's Foreign Office Friday advised Britons against travelling to Algeria after a bomb killed nine people and injured 128 at Algiers airport. "In view of recent bomb attacks, apparently directed at foreign travellers, their journey where possible until the security situation becomes clear," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Turkey says PKK forced exodus

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's interior minister said Friday Kurdish rebels had deliberately prompted this week's exodus of 20,000 civilians from the south-eastern town of Sinak. Ismet Sezgin told parliament that the townspeople's flight was part of a scenario played out by the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), fighting for an independent Kurdish state. He blamed "provocation, persuasion and threats of the PKK and its supporters" for Monday's exodus. The government and the PKK give conflicting accounts of the Sinak incidents, in which 19 people were killed.

King Hussein thanks King Fahd, hopes for return to normal ties

Saudi and Egyptian messages and visits to Mayo Clinic seen as signs of thaw in relations

By Nermeen Murad and P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

A THAW has appeared in Jordan's frosty relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt with the Saudi and Egyptian leaders sending personal emissaries to visit His Majesty King Hussein, who underwent surgery last week at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, and to wish him a speedy recovery.

King Hussein Friday sent a message to King Fahd thanking him and expressing hope that Jordanian-Saudi relations would return to normalcy soon.

"I deeply appreciate your kind message and good wishes for my speedy recovery," said the message. "I can never forget, dear brother, your kind, warm and noble feelings that overwhelmed me and which have now dissipated a great deal of the dark clouds and painful era that

marred our relationship," it said. "The painful disruption of our brotherly relations as Arabs and Muslims, which permeated our atmosphere at an unexpected and unwanted moment has adversely affected Arab and Islamic brotherhood," the King said.

The King expressed hope that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia would now return to their "pure and glorious nature so as to bring the brotherly peoples of Jordan and Saudi Arabia together towards achieving the common welfare of both."

The King, who is scheduled to leave the Mayo Clinic Saturday, wished the Saudi leader continued good health and happiness. It was the first published formal contact between the two monarchs after the Gulf crisis erupted over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The visit to the Mayo Clinic by Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., to wish King Hussein a speedy recovery appeared to be the first positive result of

Jordan's efforts to mend relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states which were angered by what they saw as Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence Minister Prince Sultan also sent their good wishes to the King, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The visit by Prince Bandar, son of Prince Sultan and a very influential Saudi leader, followed a similar trip to the Mayo Clinic by the Egyptian ambassador to the U.S. carrying President Hosni Mubarak's personal good wishes to King Hussein. In addition to sending his emissary, Mr. Mubarak contacted King Hussein twice over the phone to inquire over his health and wish him speedy recovery.

Jordan's relations with Egypt were also strained during the Gulf crisis, with the Egyptian press continuing attacks on Jordan on a daily basis. But, according to published comments by the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt, Amman-Cairo relations are also on the mend.

Political analysts took a cautious approach to the Saudi and Egyptian leaders' gestures, but almost everyone agreed that these could be signs of reconciliation, given the traditions of the Arab World.

The visits of the Saudi and Egyptian envoys to the King "could very well be the first step in breaking the ice" in political relations, said an analyst in Amman.

"The Egyptian and Saudi decisions to use the occasion of King Hussein's illness to resume personal contacts is indeed true to the Arab style of mending fences," said the analyst.

Another observer said he detected the traditional pattern of Arab reconciliation recreated at the Mayo Clinic. "In Arab-Arab relations, one sees a repetition of this behaviour, where one state gets angry with another and then turns around and reconciles unexpectedly."

What came as a surprise to many was the fact that the Saudi and Egyptian gestures came at a time when Jordan appeared to have resigned to giving as much time as needed for improvement in relations after having used every opportunity

to make its position clear and making every effort for reconciliation. "I don't know what more I can do" to improve relations, King Hussein said last year after Saudi leaders rebuffed Jordan's effort to make an Islamic summit the forum for launching reconciliation.

Unconfirmed reports have said that Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Gulf wanted a "public apology" from Jordan for its stand during the Gulf crisis. But Jordan argued that there was nothing to apologise for since its position was principled but was misinterpreted by the Gulf states.

Starting with a chance remark by King Hussein that he preferred to be called "Sheikh" (honest) rather than all official titles and names — which was interpreted by the Saudis as a reference to his grandfather, Hussein Ben Ali, who had the title of "Sheikh of Mecca" — the estrangement between Saudi Arabia and Jordan

after having used every opportunity



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Jordan beats Iraq 2-0 to take soccer cup

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian national team won the first Jordan International Soccer Championship after defeating Iraq 2-0 in a match held at Amman Stadium under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein. Jordan's two goals were scored in the second half of the match by Aref Hussein and Hassan Abdul Mun'im. At the end of the match, Prince Abdullah presented the cup to Jordan's Captain Jamal Abu Abed, and the second place cup to Iraqi Captain Ahmad Radhi, who also won a trophy for the tournament's highest scorer. The match was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Ali, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Youth Minister Saleh Ibraheem and more than 30,000 fans. Eight teams from Africa, Asia and Europe participated in the championship, which was organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne.

King leaves hospital today for recuperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein leaves the Mayo Clinic today to start a period of recuperation, his personal physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said. According to Dr. Farraj, the King will be leaving hospital fully cured and enjoying good health. There is no need for any post-surgery treatment since the operation removed all causes for his ailment, the doctor said.

King Hussein entered the Mayo Clinic Aug. 17 for a urinary tract problem. On Aug. 29, doctors removed the left kidney and a blockage that had narrowed the ureter, which carries urine from the kidney to the bladder.

Dr. Farraj said later the tumor was diagnosed as cancer of the ureter lining, but he said the entire malignancy had been removed. After he leaves the hospital, King Hussein will need routine checkups of the urinary tract every three months to six months. Most of those will be performed in Amman, Dr. Farraj said.

King Hussein received cables of good wishes of speedy recovery from Saudi leaders (see separate story) and French President Francois Mitterrand, Indian President S.D. Sharma, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, and the king of Nepal. The King also received in the Mayo Clinic the Yemeni ambassador to the U.S. who conveyed to him the Yemeni president's best wishes.

Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella contacted the Jordanian ambassador in Algiers to congratulate him over the success of the King's surgery.

Cables were also sent by former Sudanese leader Abdul Rahman Swaraddhab, the Moroccan king's advisor, the Greek Orthodox patriarch in Amman, the Armenian patriarch in Amman, Fatch Central Council member Ihsan Al Wazir, the president of the Jordanian Veterinarians Association, the president of Mu'ta University, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the director of the Islamic Hospital, the Egyptian Community Club in Amman, the president of the Jordanian chambers of commerce federation and the mayor of Zarqa.

Almost all Arab leaders have sent good wishes to the King, including the heads of state of Qatar, Bahrain and Oman in the Gulf. The notable exceptions include Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

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Detained deputy faces questioning

By Suhail Obaidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Formal questioning of Deputy Yaqoub Qarrash and nine others detained for allegedly forming an armed group begins today, with informed sources asserting that there were enough grounds for a case to be tried at the state security court.

All those detained in a roundup Thursday remained in custody, the sources said. The source denied that five members of the group, identified as the "vanguard of Muslim Youth" were released. "They are all still in custody. Questioning will start Saturday," the source said.

Sheikh Qarrash, who occupies one of three seats in Amman's Second District in the Lower House, was arrested one day after Parliament ended its extraordinary summer session. Deputies have immunity against legal proceedings only when parliament is in session.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoual said in a statement issued Thursday that Sheikh Qarrash and the others were suspected of "establishing an illegal organisation and possessing arms" and explosives.

He said that Sheikh Qarrash faces charges of "organising and heading the group as well as financing it with funds brought from abroad." Neither the minister nor the source was willing to name any country or foreign group in relation to the charges in this unprecedented case.

According to Leith Shubeilat, also a member of Parliament and a close associate of Sheikh Qarrash, Acting Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Karim Dughmi has sent a letter to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker requesting that Sheikh Qarrash be released on bail.

However, the informed source, who is very close to the investigation, was sceptical about Parliament's request. "Bail is possible, but it is very difficult in such cases," he said.

Mr. Dughmi also requested that a lawyer be appointed on behalf of Sheikh Qarrash who hails originally from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. According to Mr. Shubeilat, that request was positively met.

According to the source, the case started when military police

raided a shop in Jabal Hussein and impounded arms and explosives found there and arrested the shopkeeper. "A number of suspects were also arrested and other quantities of arms were found in their possession," he said.

He said that the arms and explosives belonged to Sheikh Qarrash and that those arrested had confessed they "were working for him."

Also searched were the house of Sheikh Qarrash and the office and car of Deputy Shubeilat. "Incriminating files and documents related to the organisation were found at Qarrash's house," the source said.

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Yaqoub Qarrash

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Rightists press bid to block Lebanese elections

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Right-wing Christians began a commercial strike Friday for the second consecutive weekend to try again to block Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years.

Stores were shuttered in east Beirut and other Christian areas to protest the balloting, which began last Sunday in the north and east of the country and continues with voting this Sunday in the central region, including Beirut.

A third round is scheduled for the south Sept. 6. Right-wing Christians, mainly Maronite Catholics, have pledged to boycott the elections. They charge that polling while Syria's 40,000 troops remain in the country could lead to a parliament tilted in favour of Syria.

Many Christians consider the Syrian troops, sent in as a peacekeeping force in 1976, as an occupying force. Low Christian turnout in last Sunday's vote in north Lebanon had the eastern Bekaa Valley allowed the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and other fundamentalist groups to make a strong showing.

On Thursday, Christian parliament members, alarmed by the Muslim gains, tried to block further balloting with an unsuccessful attempt to topple Prime Minister Rashid Solh.

Forty-seven Christian deputies gathered at the parliament to table a "no-confidence" motion against Mr. Solh for mishandling the first stage of the election. But they failed to muster the mandatory quorum of 65 and resorted, instead, to lodging an unbending petition with the speaker's office seeking a speedy parliament session to consider their demand.

On Wednesday, two Maronite Catholics had resigned from the cabinet. Official results of Sunday's voting in north Lebanon showed a victory for 26 pro-Syrian Christian and Muslim candidates as well as two Sunni Muslim fundamentalists.

Results announced on Thursday showed Hizbollah scored a landslide victory in the ancient Bekaa Valley city of Baalbek. The latest results make it clear that the new parliament will have a majority of pro-Syrian members as well as, for the first time, some Muslim fundamentalists.

As stipulated in the Taif agreement, Christians and Muslims will have an equal number of seats, but Christians are concerned that parliament will be dominated by Muslim extremists rather than moderates.

Iraq remains defiant as allies enforce 'no-fly' zone in south

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The United States and its allies have imposed a no-fly zone in southern Iraq with no encounters reported, but defiant Iraqi statements highlighted the possibility of a clash to come.

Government statements said the aerial umbrella began Thursday was an aggression designed to partition the country along sectarian and ethnic lines.

Sword-wielding demonstrators in downtown Baghdad shouted "Down with Bush, down with imperialism!" in a morning protest march several hours before the ban took effect.

U.S. warplanes roared off the decks of the aircraft carrier U.S. Independence at hourly intervals on Friday, sticking to a grueling pace of patrols to enforce the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Iraq did not challenge the ban but pilots said they would remain wary.

Aircraft from the carrier flew more than 100 sorties in the first 12 hours of the ban, which began at 1415 GMT on Thursday, and were expected to fly the same number on Friday.

The planes dropped leaflets warning Iraqi soldiers not to use radar in the area or "you'll be taken out."

No Iraqi aircraft were detected south of the 32nd Parallel, U.S. officers said. The sorties included military patrols and reconnaissance flights and aircraft dropped two types of leaflets printed in Arabic.

One leaflet was addressed to Iraqi pilots and warned them of the allied policy that was imposed Thursday and bars all Iraqi aircraft — both civilian and military — from flying south of the 32 Parallel.

The second leaflet warned radar operators "if you turn on the radar you'll be taken out."

U.S. officials confirmed that the military has seen Iraqi troop movements in the southern part of Iraq, but they said they could not characterise them as a withdrawal.

Iraq warned defiantly that President Saddam Hussein would remain "a thorn in the eyes of his enemies."

Sermons in some Baghdad mosques stressed the need for Arab unity to defeat the West. "The West's provocation of Iraq is an exposed and dirty game," said the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra.

It raised the possibility that the no-fly zone could lead to a new attack on Iraq 18 months after the Gulf war allies forced Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"Even if Iraq is hit twice we will reconstruct what is destroyed

(Continued on page 2)

Balkan peace process shaped, but little respite seen for victims of war

LONDON (Agencies) — Western leaders say they plan to hold a conference "has set us on a new course. ... We will not solve this problem overnight but I think we have established a substantial process."

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, two mortar attacks in Sarajevo killed three people and wounded 29 at a bread line and a cafe. The republic's health ministry, reporting on casualties before the attacks, said 31 people died and 189 were wounded across Bosnia in the previous 24 hours. In Sarajevo alone, 12 people died and 80 were wounded, it said. At least 8,000 people have been killed in nearly six months of fighting.

In London, Prime Minister John Major said all sides in the

fighting had agreed on principles for new talks to begin Sept. 3 in Geneva, Switzerland. "The international community will cajole, negotiate and pressure the parties for as long as it takes to bring about a settlement," he said. "There will be 'backs but there can be no turning back from the agreements that have been reached."

He announced that former British Foreign Secretary David Owen, who has called for more vigorous military peacekeeping to stop the conflict, would lead the negotiations as Europe's chief mediator.

Radoslav Karadzic, leader of Serbs in Bosnia, said his forces

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Rebels attack diplomats fleeing Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Rebels Friday ignored a temporary ceasefire and fired rockets into Kabul's airport, setting ablaze a plane sent to evacuate Russian diplomats and their families from the besieged capital.

Four Russian commandos aboard the plane were injured escaping from the burning plane. Two giant Ilyushin-76 military transport planes escaped the bombardment and took 120 Russian embassy staffers, their wives and children safely out of Kabul with little more than the possessions they could carry with them.

About 50 Russians, including Ambassador Yevgeny Ostravenko and other senior diplomats, were forced to stay behind when a rocket slammed into a fuel storage depot and ignited the third plane. Dozens of passengers, most of them diplomats,

wives, had been preparing to board. Visibly shaken, Mr. Ostravenko tried to soothe his panicky staff waiting in a dark bunker to leave the increasingly dangerous capital.

Before leaving the danger zone above Kabul airport, one aircraft made a daring return to the rocket-rattled tarmac to collect the injured commandos, wrapped in bloodied bandages.

The planes then circled around the mountains that ring the city, spewing dozens of flares to draw away heat-seeking surface-to-air missiles.

Russia's ambassador to Pakistan asked that country to help rescue the remaining Russians. Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammad Khan told the ambassador, Victor Yakunin, in Islamabad that Pakistan would

ask the Afghan government and the rebels to allow Russian planes to use Kabul's airport without being fired on.

The fleeing diplomats came under fire only hours after the start of a truce between dissident rebels led by firebrand fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the Islamic government.

Mr. Hekmatyar has sworn to destroy the capital unless the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani expels a militia that once backed the hated communist regime but later proved crucial in toppling it in April.

Steady rocketing has rained chaos and destruction on the city, forcing one-third of its 1.5 million residents to flee, and causing severe shortages of food, fuel and medicine.

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Hizbollah wins parliament seats

BEIRUT (R) — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah, regarded by the West as an extremist group which sponsored the 1980s kidnappings of Westerners, has won a place in the heart of Lebanon's political system.

Results from the first phase of the country's first parliamentary elections in 20 years showed that the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah (Party of God) won a big majority of votes in the poll in east Lebanon last Sunday.

"The elections were a kind of referendum that demonstrated the strength of Hizbollah, the public support it has and its weight in Lebanese political life," Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told an election rally.

Sheikh Nasrallah said Hizbollah, founded and guided by Iran, would play a bigger political role in Lebanon through taking seats in parliament for the first time.

Four Hizbollah officials, including three clerics, won seats in the district where Shiites were allocated six seats, according to results announced on Thursday. The others went to Syrian-backed Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini and an ally.

But Mr. Hussein, accusing Hizbollah of rigging the poll, announced on Monday that he was resigning. It was unclear whether he would take up his seat in the new assembly.

Political analysts specialising in Islamic fundamentalism said Hizbollah's move into Lebanon's legitimate political life should be seen within the context of other Middle East countries where Muslim activists were joining government institutions.

"If we see what's happening in Algeria, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen etc... we notice that Muslim fundamentalist factions want to act through legitimate bodies rather than work as underground groups," said analyst Michel Nawfal.

Hizbollah's decision to contest the elections surprised Lebanon's political community because the militant group had said since its foundation in 1982 that it wanted to topple the Christian-dominated system and set up a Tehran-style republic.

But changes in the political climate of the Middle East and Lebanon, where an international-backed peace pact divided

power equally between Muslims and Christians and ended 15 years of civil war, persuaded the group to adjust its policy.

But Hizbollah officials said it would not abandon its goal of fighting Israel to the finish.

Analysts said factors which contributed to Hizbollah's growth and election success included: — The momentum of the Islamic revolution in Iran which encouraged Lebanon's underprivileged 1.3 million-strong Shiite community, the largest in the country, to demand more power.

— Iran's sponsorship of Hizbollah in financing, training and supplying weapons to thousands of its followers.

— Hizbollah's financial support to impoverished Shiites by setting up hospitals, factories, schools and other social services.

Hizbollah's determined Western to launch attacks against Israel and Israeli targets, especially in South Lebanon where about 1,000 Israeli troops occupy a self-styled border strip.

Hizbollah, based on the fundamentalist teachings of Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was founded

after hundreds of Iranian Revolutionary Guards arrived in east Lebanon in 1982 during the Israeli invasion of the country.

Underground groups operating under Hizbollah's umbrella launched several suicide bombings against U.S., French and Israeli targets in a hostage saga which ended only this year.

The outgoing parliament failed on Thursday to reach a quorum to discuss a crisis caused by fierce Christian opposition to the elections and the resignations of Mr. Hussein and two Christian ministers.

Officials said most of the 47 deputies who attended held an unofficial meeting signed a petition demanding the government's resignation and the suspension of the poll. They also appealed to Mr. Hussein to withdraw his resignation.

The two Christian ministers resigned on Wednesday after the government decided to hold polls in Beirut and Mount Lebanon on schedule next Sunday.

Most Christians are boycotting the elections, saying they should not be held until Syria withdraws its troops from the country.

U.S. military begins airlift into Somalia

MOBASA (AP) — After two weeks of preparation and negotiation, the United States on Friday began flying food directly to Somalia, where scores of thousands already have starved to death and millions more need emergency aid.

Scores of thousands of Somalis already have starved to death and millions more need emergency aid.

The first C-130 cargo plane left Mobasa shortly after 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) carrying about 8½ tonnes of rice, beans and cooking oil.

It landed and unloaded approximately 2½ hours later and returned to its base at this Indian Ocean port by 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT), according to Donald Stader, the U.S. consul in Mobasa.

Three other C-130s also landed in Belet Hoen, a village on Ethiopia's border 320 kilometres north of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and were expected to return to Mobasa by mid-afternoon, said Mr. Stader. The four planes were delivering a total of 34 tonnes.

The food was handled on the ground by Somalia and international staff working for the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Red Cross has been airlifting food to Belet Hoen since early this year, caring for more than 100,000 people.

U.S. officials on Thursday plans to being airlifting food directly to Somalia, 12 days after the first American contingent arrived in Kenya to plan the ambitious U.S. relief operation.

"Our mission, simply stated, is to deliver food to the needy," said Marine Brigadier General Frank Libutti, who is leading the U.S. operation. "I'm absolutely confident we've done our homework."

Since U.S. flights began last Friday, eight C-130s hercules and four C-141 starliners have delivered some 841 tonnes to Somali refugees and drought-stricken Kenyans in northern Kenya, but no flights have reached Somalia itself until Friday.

Some 1.5 million Somalis out of a population of 6.5 million are

said to be in immediate danger of starvation.

Southern Somalia fell into chaos after the rebel coalition that fought to oust dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991 disintegrated into clan warfare.

There is no central authority in Somalia, and teenage gunmen often raid food shipments.

Logistics, security and requirements of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will distribute food in the chaotic country, have delayed the U.S. airlift.

Army Lieutenant-Colonel Donnelly, a spokesman for the relief operation, said the Americans had yielded to the agency's demands that the aircraft not carry armed men and that Red Cross decals be affixed to the planes.

Andrew Nations, the special U.S. coordinator who also helped direct U.S. aid to refugees in Sudan two years ago, said "without doubt, (Somalia) is the most difficult we've ever dealt with."

"There is no conflict situation in the world more chaotic and more dangerous than Somalia," he said.

Mr. Nations said most of the emergency food would go to the country's two southern zones, where the greatest anarchy exists.

Simultaneously, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Red Cross and others will "create incentives for everybody to stop fighting" by helping to rehabilitate the two relatively settled northern zones.

The Red Cross already has inoculated two million animals in the north and has expanded tool and seed programmes there to allow cultivation.

"Some of the northern clan leaders even asked about help with police training to put down lawlessness. Nobody in the south is talking about training policemen, believe me," Mr. Nations said.

"We will tell the clan leaders that their people will get more if they stop fighting."

He said the message will be broadcast on the British Broadcasting Corporation. And the Voice of America.

fer to protect Kuwait and Saudi Arabia against Iraq.

"The zone certainly will turn into a security belt for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to maintain the export of oil without any potential Iraqi threat," Tehran Radio said.

In Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, six British Tornados reconnaissance-fighter jets arrived to join the monitoring operation. France also has said it will help enforce the prohibition.

U.S. officials say Iraq has withdrawn its estimated 170 to 200 combat aircraft and some of its helicopter gunships from southern bases.

But it keeps a sizeable army — at least 50,000 troops by the most conservative figures — backed by tanks and heavy artillery in the region.

A senior Iraqi official, who insisted on anonymity, told the Associated Press the allied action means "we have to reconsider everything related to our strategy concerning United Nations' resolutions."

That implied Baghdad might stop allowing U.N. inspection teams into Iraq to oversee destruction of its weapons of mass destruction, as laid down in last year's Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council said after a meeting that the ban was "aggressive, illegal and unjust."

"We maintain our right to deal with this aggressive decision in due time and with the appropriate methods," said a statement by the government spokesman read over the state radio.

The statement appealed to Iraq's 17 million people to resist the "vicious Zionist-imperialist enemy."

Malaysia criticises allied action in southern Iraq

DHAKA (Agencies) — Malaysia, a Muslim country that supported the West during the Gulf war, criticised the allied Thursday for banning Iraqi warplanes in southern Iraq.

Malaysia also urged the United Nations to halt the killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a former Yugoslavian state where Serbs are fighting a Muslim-led government.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's foreign minister, stated his country's views at a news conference following a five-day meeting on trade issues in Bangladesh, another Islamic country.

"We do not believe in any more stern action against Iraq, and we also don't want any war there," Mr. Abdullah said.

"We supported U.N. action against Iraq during the Gulf war and that is enough for us," he said.

Commenting on the "no fly zone" the allies are imposing in southern Iraq, Mr. Abdullah said: "It seems President Bush wants to put pressure on Iraq as

he did not want to see (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein around."

Mr. Abdullah accused the United States of applying "double standards" in dealing with problems in Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: "This makes us all very unhappy."

He suggested "tough U.N. measures" to end the Serb killings of Muslims in Bosnia, adding: "We want quick justice in Bosnia."

Mr. Abdullah Ahmad said the same principle of protecting the helpless was not being applied to the people of Bosnia.

"That's why we and many other nations are pressing the United Nations to take action under Article 42, Chapter Seven of the U.N. Charter," he said.

"I think that's the only way to solve the problem. Of course we do support the U.N. move to ensure efficient and safe delivery of assistance to the victims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but we do not believe it is a solution to the existing problem."

Rabin: Israel will retaliate if Iraq attacks

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed on Friday to retaliate massively against the cities of Iraq state that launched conventional missiles at Israel.

Mr. Rabin told the newspaper Haaretz that the Jewish state would not hold back if attacked by Iraqi missiles as it had done during the Gulf war.

But Mr. Rabin, who came to power two months ago supporting Middle East peace efforts, did not think Iraq would attack.

"I do not think that Iraq will act against Israel, but if it does, Israel has a wide variety of means of action which there is no point to detail publicly," he said.

Reacting to Israeli unease on Thursday, Mr. Rabin had warned Iraq against hitting Israel in reprisal for the Western allies' imposition of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Asked how Israel could deter other Arab states from missile strikes, Mr. Rabin said:

"Generally, when talking about a nearby state like Syria in the context of all-out war, there are two components. A: To make clear that a strike against Israel with conventional weapons would bring a massive conventional strike against the cities of that state.

B: To come to a quick decision in the war and not have a situa-

tion like Desert Storm (the allied codename for the Gulf war) which for 45 days our rear was exposed.

"Regarding states that are further off, develop the ability to hit the population centres of those states."

The United States, Britain and France imposed a no-fly zone in southern Iraq on Thursday.

Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel during the Gulf war, causing heavy damage but few casualties. Washington put strong pressure on Israel not to respond militarily, fearing Israeli action might undermine the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq.

Avihu Bin Nun, Israel's air

force chief during the war who has since retired from the armed forces, said on Thursday that Israel would not be restrained this time if attacked.

"This time no one will stand in our way and say 'let us do the job for you, don't go in, hold off, you're liable to wreck the coalition' — all the things they told us in the war."

Mr. Bin Nun said he did not believe Iraq would attack Israel, but added, "there is no technical problem to reach any point in Iraq and to do all that should be done in the event that (Iraq) decides to involve us in the matter."

Security Council backs Iraq-Kuwait border decision

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The Security Council has accepted the Iraq-Kuwait international border mapped out by the demarcation commission and stressed to Iraq that it will "guarantee the inviolability" of the international boundary.

Adopting a resolution by a vote of 14 to 0 with Ecuador abstaining, the council also encouraged the secretary general to realign the U.N.-supervised demilitarised zone accordingly "at the earliest practicable time."

In the resolution, adopted Wednesday, the council noted that "through the demarcation process the commission is not reallocating territory between

Kuwait and Iraq, but... is simply carrying out the technical task necessary to demarcate for the first time the precise coordinate of the boundary set out in the agreed minutes between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq," signed by them on 4 October 1963.

It also encouraged the commission to determine the offshore boundary.

U.S. Ambassador Alexander Watson said that the United States "strongly supports" the resolution and "commends the commission for resolutely completing this part of its work."

Mr. Watson said the United States joins other council mem-

bers "in reiterating support for the council's guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary as demarcated by the commission" and urges Iraq and Kuwait "to cooperate fully with the work of the commission."

The commission demarcating the land boundary between Iraq and Kuwait finalised its work late July without the participation of Iraq. It ruled that the oil wells in the fields between Safwan and the Batin exploited in the past by Iraq were in Kuwait according to the boundary shown on the British map referred to in Security Council Resolution 687.

The demarcation "leaves Umm Qasr port complex, including all

the warehouses, crane installations, deep-water anchorage and two wide berths as well as the whole of Umm Qasr village, the navy hospital and the sulfur works within Iraqi territory," the commission said. "With the port and the Khawr Zhuber in Iraq, the commission's decisions on this section of the land boundary affirm Iraq's access to the sea."

Kuwait Ambassador Mohammad Abdulhassan said that the importance of the demarcation is not the size of the territory being restored to Kuwait but "the principle that this border for the first time in history... will be demarcated according to the agreed treaty between Kuwait and Iraq."

'No-fly' zone

(Continued from page 1)

by the enemies... Saddam Hussein will remain a thorn in the eyes of his enemies," it said.

In an editorial the newspaper said the exclusion zone was "an imminent and comprehensive danger" and part of a conspiracy to tear apart Iraq and other Arab countries.

"It is one of the dirtiest election games by the United States... despite this, capable Iraq is confident of itself and the firmness of its attitude," Al Thawra said.

Neighbouring Iran echoed the electioneering charge against U.S. President George Bush and questioned the genuineness of Western concern for Shiites in Iraq's southern marches whom the allies say the no-fly zone is designed to protect.

"These people (the Shiites) have consistently been on the receiving end of campaigns of genocide and oppression carried out by the Iraqi regime... where has this Western alliance been, and why has its conscience been asleep for so long?" Tehran Radio said.

"We believe the no-fly zone seeks to... offset the decline in Bush's popularity on the American streets," it said.

The southern exclusion zone is in addition to a similar ban on Iraqi aircraft north of the 36th Parallel enforced without incident since shortly after the Gulf war.

Tehran, which opposes Western intrusion in the Gulf region, said the southern exclusion zone would become a permanent buffer.

King thanks Saudi leader

(Continued from page 1)

deepened when Amman opposed the military option to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and advocated an Arab solution to the crisis.

Demonstrations by Jordanians in support of Iraq added further strain. After the U.S.-led coalition pushed out Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February last year, hundreds of thousands of Jordanians were expelled from Kuwait and other Gulf states, which also suspended all financial assistance to Jordan.

In a White Paper released in August 1991, one year after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Jordan sought to clarify its position by presenting the backdrop to its decisions and reasoning behind calling for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. The paper noted that at no point Jordan had condoned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and had advocated a negotiated settlement of the crisis to protect the Arab World from disasters.

The document drew further criticism from Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and media attacks were intensified against Jordan.

House of reconciliation appeared to suffer another setback when King Fahd offered up to \$70 million to a U.N. agency to repair Islamic shrines and housing quarters of Muslim

clergymen in occupied Jerusalem. Jordan, which continues to shoulder the responsibility of looking after the shrines, said the proper channel for such contributions was a special Jordanian committee rather than an international body, which could also add further complications to the status of Jerusalem, one of the key elements in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Another thorn in relations came up when Saudi Arabia interpreted comments by King Hussein on Islamic fundamentalism to mean that the Saudi leadership was funding extremist groups in Jordan.

During the public exchanges over the various issues, Jordanian officials have been careful in their choice of words and always stressed clear of any overt criticism or attack and stuck to explaining the Kingdom's stand.

There are indeed signs that Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Egypt could take a positive turn-around," said a political observer. "It is too early to predict, but there is enough ground to hope for the better."

His attack high significance to King Fahd's choice of Prince Bandar as his envoy to King Hussein, particularly that the ambassador was one of the most outspoken critics of Jordan and King Hussein during the Gulf crisis.

Arabs seek Israeli action to match word

(Continued from page 1)

"We have come to a sort of impasse," he said, with Israel insisting the negotiations begin with Lebanon committing to a peace treaty.

He said the Lebanese would return to the negotiating table Tuesday, reviewing their position on key issues over a long

weekend.

"If we find we are being bogged down on purpose we will not be silent," he said.

Mr. Shammas, who is secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, was due to meet later Friday with Edward P. Djerejian, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for the Near East.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Des petites histoires presque vraies

18:10 Les Tortues Ninja

18:30 La Gymnastique

19:00 News in French

19:15 Penelope sur

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Super Bloopers

21:00 News in English

21:30 News in English

22:00 Future Film "Picture Perfect"

PRAYER TIMES

06:29 Sunrise

07:59 Sunrise

12:59 Dhuhr

16:18 Asr

19:18 Maghrib

20:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlich, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543

Anglican Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Dr. Khalil Al-Jabali Tel. 740740

Dr. Ahmed Dahab Tel. 653226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 622024, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675991

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 26/37

Agila 26/37

Jericho 20/36

Jordan Valley 25/36

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Agila 30, Jericho 25

Weather

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be southerly moderate and sea calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 45 per cent, Agila 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Walid Sahawneh 779997

Dr. Salama Al Dahab 776751

Dr. Khalil Al-Jabali 740740

Dr. Ahmed Dahab 653226

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Neitrouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shammas pharmacy 637660

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ESCWA meeting discuss impact of Gulf war, regional cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 16th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will open in Amman Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The meeting, in which ESCWA's representatives in 13 Arab countries will participate, will review the commission's various activities and services in the Western Asia region and examine a three-year report on studies for conferences, consultancy services to the ESCWA member-nations in energy, agriculture, the environment, human resources, industrial development statistics, population, the transfer of technology, communication and transport, and water resources, Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Friday.

ESCWA sources said the economic situation in Jordan in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis is expected to get a high exposure at the five-day meeting, the first of its kind since the Gulf war.

The sources said that Amman conference will review ESCWA activities since May 1989, efforts undertaken to address the consequences of the Gulf crisis on individual countries, and assess the outcome of seminars and general meetings organised by the commission so far.

Iraq, which hosted the ESCWA headquarters until the start of the Gulf crisis, will be among the countries attending the Amman conference in addition to Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen as well as Jordan. A number of non-ESCWA members and Arab and international organisations will attend the meeting as observers.

ESCWA officials last week said that there was need for resuming regional cooperation to achieve ESCWA's common goals. Unless such cooperation is restored to its pre-Gulf crisis level, particularly in man power movement, they said, relations between the Gulf states and countries like Jordan and Yemen would remain strained.

Participants at the meeting will also examine the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which provides the framework for the programmes of work and priorities of the commission for the same period. It covers the general goals of ESCWA in the light of major developments in the region as well as world developments. The plan also presents the strategy for the work of ESCWA for the 1990s.

Proposals submitted by the commissions secretariat regarding the strengthening of the role and performance of ESCWA will be discussed as well as the economic impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA region. The ESCWA secretariat is submitting a report on this subject, which briefly discusses international trade and the exchange of technology between the European Community and the ESCWA region.

Consumer Corporation lowers prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) is reducing its profits on consumer goods to benefit the government employees and their families, according to Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Saqqaf.

The CSCC is now paying reasonable prices for the products it buys and is reducing its expenses, a measure which enabled it to reduce the price of products sold to the beneficiaries, said the minister at a ceremony for the opening of a third branch of CSCC in Zarqa Thursday.

The CSCC was founded to offer services to the limited-income groups among the government civil servants and it has been "providing them with excellent service," said the minister.

The CSCC has adopted a new policy whereby its products can reach different districts in areas inhabited by government employees with a view to reducing transport expenses, added the minister.

Mr. Saqqaf announced that before the end of 1992, the Ministry of Supply will open new CSCC markets in Fubais, the Jordan Valley, Mafrqa and Shobak.

Foodstuffs, clothes home appliances, electric products and other items are sold to government employees at reduced prices in these markets.

According to the CSCC Director General Mohammad Abduljalil, the CSCC is now purchasing 86 per cent of its products from local Jordanian industries and businesses thus reducing its dependence on imported goods.

He said that two new CSCC markets will shortly be opened at Rusafa and Al Hashemeh, both within the Zarqa governorate where a large number of government employees live.

Mr. Saqqaf also met with Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki who briefed him on the supply situation in Zarqa governorate.

ILO chief continues talks, pledges to pursue compensations for 'returnees'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Michael Hansenne will resume his meetings with Jordanian officials Saturday to discuss labour-related issues, and ILO-Jordanian cooperation in ensuring compensation for the Jordanian returnees from the Gulf states as well as helping Palestinian workers under Israeli rule.

These issues were at the centre of talks Mr. Hansenne Thursday had with Jordanian officials led by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The Prime Minister was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as voicing the Jordanian government's appreciation of the role ILO plays in helping workers and ensuring further cooperation between workers, employers and government in Jordan with a view to increasing productivity.

Sharif Zeid said Jordan was "deeply impressed by Mr. Hansenne's report submitted to the ILO general conference in Geneva which covered the plight of Palestinian workers in the occupied Arab territories and his support for their struggle to ensure their legitimate rights and improving their conditions." He said that the ILO's positive stand would contribute to the ongoing peace process.

Mr. Hansenne, who arrived here Thursday, on a five-day official visit said that he appreciated the Jordanian government's endeavours to offer assistance to the thousands of Jordanian workers who have returned to the Kingdom from Gulf countries since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

He said the ILO realises the magnitude of the social and economic burden this situation puts on Jordan, particularly as the country is struggling to implement the economic restructuring programme and introduce economic reforms.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Hansenne both stressed the need for pursuing coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the Geneva-based ILO to "help Jordan deal with the socio-economic challenges under these difficult circumstances."

Compensation for loss of livelihoods and savings by Jordanian and Palestinian workers who lost their jobs in Gulf states as a result of the Gulf war was fully examined at a meeting between Mr. Hansenne and the President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Mr. Mohammad Asfour in the presence of Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

Mr. Hansenne expressed the ILO's readiness to help Jordan obtain compensations for these workers through presenting Jordan's case to the concerned authorities.

Mr. Asfour referred to the new labour law due to be submitted by

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Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday receives ILO Director General Michael Hansenne in the presence of Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti (left) Petra photo

the government to Parliament for discussion saying that its provisions conform to the ILO's regulations and recommendations.

He requested the ILO chief to offer Jordan Technical assistance in vocational training to promote the skills of the country's human resources, particularly in the services sector.

Mr. Asfour also urged the ILO to increase its efforts to help Arab workers and their unions under Israeli rule in the occupied territories and to provide Jordan with expertise in social security and medical schemes for workers.

Mr. Hansenne, who is accompanied by Shukri Dajani, his assistant for the Arab region is expected to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma to discuss ILO-Jordanian relations.

The ILO chief is also scheduled to hold series of meetings with employers and representatives of workers and will tour a number of community centres among other places before leaving Amman for home on Tuesday.

Petra, said "Jordan has been a very active member of the ILO since 1956 and the Kingdom has approved all ILO regulations and agreements aimed at promoting the workers' conditions."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zeid visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Thursday visited the armed forces general headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb. Sharif Zeid and Marshal Abu Taleb discussed several issues of concern to the armed forces.

Folkloric group celebrates King's accession to the Throne

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's Accession to the Throne, Al Jeel Al Jadeed Troupe for Circasian Folklore has started performing shows at the Royal Cultural Centre. As part of its shows, which will last till Aug. 30, the troupe is performing a musical play about the immigration of Circasians to Jordan.

Tubeishat inspects Mazar district

MAZAR (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat visited Thursday several villages in north Mazar district to get familiarised with their conditions. The visit included the village of Al Marar, Iuba, Deir Yousuf, Jahfiya, Habka, Za'ara, Samad, Irtaba and Zubia.

Ensour to attend opening of Damascus fair

RAMTHA (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour left Amman for Damascus Friday on a four-day visit to Syria. Mr. Ensour said that he will attend the opening ceremony of Damascus International Fair in which Jordan is participating. The Minister said he will also participate in the meetings of the General Assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Free Zone Company at the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee. He said he will discuss with Syrian officials commercial and industrial relations between Jordan and Syria and ways of enhancing them. Dr. Ensour is accompanied on the visit by a delegation comprising Director of the Ministry's Economic Cooperation Department Asem Hindawi and Rima Khalaf, the director general of the Jordanian Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO), which is organising the Jordanian pavilion at Damascus International Fair. A total of 62 Jordanian industries will display their products at the fair. According to JEDCCO sources, the Jordanian participation in the fair is aimed at acquainting the Syrian public with Jordan's products and to promoting Jordan's exports.

ARABSAT director due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Arab Space Communications Corporation (ARABSAT) Saad Ben Abdul Aziz Al Badani is due to arrive in Amman today Saturday on the head of an official delegation from the corporation. Mr. Badani will meet during his several-day stay in Amman with Post and Communications Minister Jamal Al Sarai and Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Ahmad Al Nawawi. He is also scheduled to hold talks with senior officials on means of financing the second generation of ARABSAT which will be launched in 1995.

Al Sabileh moves to Maan

MAAN (Petra) — A team Al Sabileh, a voluntary project from initiated in 1991 as part of the Crown Prince Award, has moved to Qareen village in Maan governorate on the second stage of a programme which entails providing services to local society. Sharifa Zein Bint Nasser, who is supervising this stage, said the services will be provided to several villages in the governorate. She said the 20-member team will be building walls for schools and charity societies and will help in renovating water canals. The project, which will last till Sept. 14, encompasses social work, scientific research, adventures and expeditions to archaeological and noteworthy places in different parts of the Kingdom.

Course on water harvesting ends

AMMAN (Petra) — a training course on water harvesting, organised by the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) in cooperation with the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture, concluded its works in Amman Thursday. The course aimed to acquaint participants with the principle of water harvesting, its basic concepts and ways of implementing it.

Wheat shipment arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first installment of 115,000 metric tonnes of American wheat, purchased under a loan agreement between Jordan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, arrived in Aqaba last week. The shipment, which amounts to 30,000 metric tonnes, was purchased from private U.S. sources.

The loan agreement for \$20 million to help Jordan purchase American wheat was signed in Amman in 1992.

The loan was extended at the soft interest rate of 2 per cent for the first seven years, and at 3 per cent thereafter. Repayment will be made in 24 annual installments following a grace period of seven years.

Breast cancer cases on the increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — UP to 300 Jordanian women develop breast cancer every year, but 80 per cent of them could be cured if the disease is discovered at early stages, according to Jordanian Cancer Society (JCS) rapporteur Ghassan Farah.

He said the majority of these women develop the disease when they are at the peak of their activities, assuming social and family responsibilities.

"Compared with the rates of industrialised countries, Jordan's rate is low. Unfortunately, however, it is on the increase," Dr. Farah told a recent symposium on combatting cancer in Jordan.

He told the meeting that there is a need for a public awareness campaign to encourage women to undergo examinations that would lead to an early discovery of the disease.

The symposium was organised by the JCS in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan with the purpose of training female health workers on means of conducting self-examination for breast cancer.

The symposium came only two days after an announcement by the National Jordanian Committee entrusted with setting up a cancer centre revealed that in 1991, 1214 new cancer cases were reported in Jordan, and warned that the number was on the increase.

It also followed an announcement by the committee and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) that they will launch a joint campaign in October to raise funds for the cancer centre.

A number of female nurses and health workers employed by the Ministry of Health, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the Jordan University Hospital took part in the symposium.

The participants were acquainted with means of diagnosing breast cancer, treatment by radiation, and other related issues.



Mohammad Kamal laid to rest: Senator Mohammad Kamal was laid to rest at the Islamic Cemetery in Sahab near Amman Thursday. Mr. Kamal, who passed away early Tuesday at the age of 76, had served in a number of important positions, including Jordan's ambassador to the United States. Prominent Jordanian personalities attended the funeral ceremony and offered their condolences to the Kamal family. Among them was Amman Governor Issa Al Omari, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein. Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Prince Mohammad were represented at the funeral ceremony.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al Helu at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Abdel Jabbar Ahmad at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled, "Exploring Science" at Fatima Al Zahraa Comprehensive School for Girls, Irbid.

Folklore

- ★ Performance by Al Jeel Al Jadeed troupe for Circasian Folklore at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

Lawzi heads delegation to non-aligned summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation, led by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, is heading for Jakarta, Indonesia, to take part in the non-aligned countries summit conference due to open there Tuesday.

Mr. Lawzi, who was delegated by His Majesty King Hussein to represent him at the summit, is accompanied by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, the Ambassador to the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Khalil Othman, and Jordan's ambassador to Indonesia Luai Khacham.

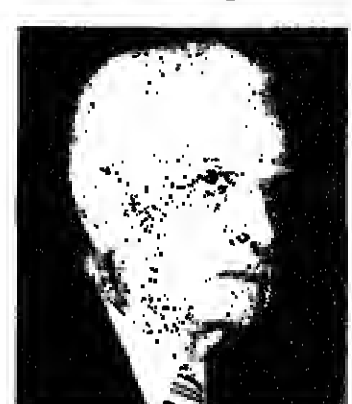
Mr. Lawzi said upon departure from Amman Thursday that the non-aligned nations' summit, is being held at a very crucial moment in the light of the current developments at the pan-Arab and international levels and in the wake of the collapse of the communist camp.

He said the summit will discuss human rights and democratic life in non-aligned nations in addition to the general political and economic environment around the world and means of promoting international trade.

Mr. Lawzi said that special attention will be given to the continued suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, the civil war in Afghanistan and the situation in the Bosnia Herzegovina.

"Jordan's position vis-a-vis international as well as national issues continues to be positive and constructive and the Kingdom is determined to bolster relations with all non-aligned nations and promote the Non-Aligned Movement's activities around the world," said Mr. Lawzi.

Mr. Lawzi said he will deliver King Hussein's address to the conference which reflects various issues.



Ahmad Al Lawzi

Orthodox church committee seeks end of Greek dominance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Orthodox Initiative Committee, which arrived here from the occupied Arab territories last week to discuss alleged malpractices by the Greek Orthodox Church leaders in Jerusalem, has appealed to the Lower House of Parliament to take steps to support the Greek Orthodox community in Palestine and Jordan.

The appeal was made by committee member Marwan Toubasi at an open meeting held at the Parliament building in Amman Thursday. The meeting was attended by Deputy House Speaker Abdul Karim Al Daghmi, several deputies and representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church in Amman.

Mr. Toubasi made the appeal upon presenting the committee's case which accused the Greek church leaders of excesses with regard to church estate through leasing church property to an Israeli firm.

Toubasi said the committee, which is opening branches throughout the Palestinian lands, is seeking to rid the Orthodox community of the Greek clergy's domination because "the Greek Orthodox patriarch is selling or leasing church estate to the Jewish agencies, something which endangers national interests."

A deputy, who is sponsoring the meeting, Fakhri Kawa, said that the actions of the patriarch were harming the Islamic as well as the Christian communities in Palestine and causing grave damage to the Palestinian cause.

Mr. Toubasi said that his committee was seeking Jordanian government and parliament support for its initiative to put an end to such malpractices and to rid the church of its Greek clergy who, he said, were abusing their authority.

Deputies Laith Shbeilat, Abdul Aziz Jaber, Abdullah Atallah, Ahmad Azaid and Anwar Hadid were present at the meeting which was also attended by Dr. Kabuf Abu Jaber who is chairman of the Orthodox Arab Society in Jordan.

Dr. Abu Jaber demanded that "Jordanian law number 27, issued in 1958, be amended in a manner that would safeguard the rights of the community of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jordan and Palestine."

After a general discussion, the participants stressed the need for supporting the committee's case and ridding the Arab church community of Greek clergy domination.

Discharged employees claim to be victim of UNESCO 'deception'

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former temporary employees of the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) are complaining that their former director general deceived them into believing that they will be reinstated after a temporary one month halt of employment.

One former employee claimed that Director General of UNESCO's office in Amman Abdul Gader Al Atrash promised seven temporary employees that the organisation will reemploy them after a one month "separation period," the organisation's term for an unpaid halt to employment enforced between renewal of contracts.

"I never promised the temporary employees anything. Never. No one can guarantee anyone a job," Dr. Atrash told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"When I met with the employees, it was those with (permanent) posts that I was referring to; not the temporary employees," he said.

at least some, if not all, the workers, one former employee said.

Dr. Salah Yacoub, who was the acting director general of the UNESCO's Amman office before the arrival of Dr. Atrash, said he and Dr. Atrash met with the temporary employees in April to inform them of the possibility of losing their jobs. He said they also promised the employees "do our best" with the Paris office to keep their employment, but the effort resulted in only a three-month extension of the contracts.

"They all knew they would eventually lose their jobs with UNESCO. Three months were long enough for them to find other employment," Dr. Yacoub said.

"We were never told that we would eventually lose our jobs," a young Jordanian who worked as a secretary at the organisation said. She said that Dr. Yacoub and Dr. Atrash assured them that not all temporary employees would be dismissed.

"Dr. Atrash told us that all temporary employees must stay at home for a one-month 'separation' after which 'you will hopefully return to work for UNESCO,'" she said. "That is why we did not request experience certificates and did not start looking for new jobs," she said.

Although UNESCO sources say these employees will never be reinstated, five different sources claimed that one former employee was rehired "through connections."

Dr. Atrash denied these claims, saying he is never influenced "by connections."

"We at UNESCO have no need for those people's services any more," he said.

Dr. Atrash said former employees will have to pass the organisation's examinations "if, and only, if we need" their services again.

Sources, however, emphasise that one former employee was reinstated without going through the necessary examinations. They claim she was hired "through connections."

While Dr. Atrash said the organisation does not need to hire more staff because the volume of its work is becoming smaller, UNESCO employees who spoke on the condition of anonymity complained that they were overworked.

"I feel deceived," one former UNESCO worker said. She said she feels entitled to "some kind of compensation" from the U.N. organisation.

The contract under which the temporary employees worked for UNESCO does not entitle them to any compensations upon termination of employment.

Employees say the compensation should come from the monthly deductions that UNESCO made on their salaries.

UNESCO said however, cuts were for local tax purposes and cannot be used to compensate the former employees.

UNESCO brought all its operations in the country to a halt in the wake of the Gulf crisis, sources said. It was the only U.N. organisation to end its activities and terminate the services of most of its employees, they said.

The organisation has since resumed its activities in the country but sources claim Dr. Atrash is planning to further slash its budget.

Dr. Atrash would not comment on this claim.

"UNESCO never turns its back on its employees," former UNESCO staff member quoted Mr. George Zwaïne, a representative from the organisation's regional office in Beirut as saying. Former employees said UNESCO has abandoned them.

Arabian Horse Festival opens at Royal Stables

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Nayef Friday deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the Arabian Horse Festival at the Royal Stables.

The two-day event is organised by the Royal Stables in cooperation with the European Committee of the Arabia Horse Society and other local, regional and international organisations.

The first day of the festival featured a beauty contest for seven groups of registered Arabian stallions and mares while unregistered horses will compete in the second day of the Middle East Open Championship.

Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, chairperson of the Royal Society for Horsekeepers, has expressed hope that the festival will expand in the future to include participants from more countries.

In a statement to Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Friday, Princess Alia emphasised the importance of the continuation of such festivals. She said the participation of horses from foreign countries reflects an interest in Arabian thoroughbreds.

Meanwhile, a panel of expert, in Arabian horses Thursday completed a training course aimed at preparing Arab referees for international Arabian horse contests.

Princess Alia was among the lecturers in the course in which referees from Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, Qatar and Morocco participated.

Experts believe that the Arabian horses, known for strength and endurance, were first bred in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula.

The United States is believed to have the largest number of Arabian thoroughbreds, followed by the United Kingdom.

Kabul

(Continued from page 1)

The government has so far refused to comment on the rocket attack, but a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar in Pakistan denied involvement in the latest onslaught.

"We had nothing to do with the attack on the airport. Those rockets were not fired by our Mujahideen," said Mengal Hussein, a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar's fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami group in Pakistan.

However, witnesses saw the rockets come from the southern edge of the Afghan capital, where Hezb-e-Islami troops are entrenched.

Russian embassy spokesman Zamir Kabulov said the Russians have a back-up plan they had already discussed with Moscow, but refused to give any details.

"Based on Moscow's response, we will decide whether to stay or leave," he said.

The two planes that left Kabul were headed for Tashkent, the capital of the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, where seven Indians, eight Indonesians and six Chinese diplomats and their wives were to be let off.

From there the planes were to proceed to Moscow.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Only 'Yugoslavs' can end conflicts

LONDON'S INTERNATIONAL conference on Yugoslavia ended Thursday with a list of decisions to its credit that aim to begin the long process of healing the wounds of the different warring factions and bringing about final peace to the former communist country. The achievements of the London meeting, sponsored jointly by the EC and U.N., — as important as they may be — will not on their own solve the intractable ethnic and religious conflicts in former Yugoslavia.

To put the Serbian heavy weapons, deployed around the major cities of Bosnia, under U.N. supervision or put them out of use altogether are indeed significant military measures that will surely lessen the tension and reduce the suffering of that country's divided peoples. Likewise the acceptance by Serbia to withdraw from the territories that belong to Bosnia through a negotiated settlement is also an important signal that the victors in the fighting there are entertaining relinquishing control over lands that belong to other ethnic factions. Even more relevant is the acceptance of Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state whose territorial integrity the other former Yugoslav republics have vowed to honour and respect.

On the humanitarian level, the London meeting decided that humanitarian support to the victims of the raging war between Serbia on the one hand and Croat and Muslim Bosnians on the other will be facilitated by all sides. In the same vein, the infamous detention camps where Serbs hold Bosnians will be unconditionally dismantled. These gains attained by the London conference are indeed substantial and far-reaching.

Yet, in the final analysis, these achievements on their own will not address the root causes of the armed ethnic and religious conflicts that ensued after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

There is a limit to what the outside world can do to settle the disputes and conflicts that erupted among the former republics of Yugoslavia. The onus of the responsibility for finding a permanent solution will always rest on the peoples affected by these conflicts and disputes. Having been able to live side by side peacefully and cooperatively for many decades under the former Yugoslav regime, it appears still possible to attain the same degree of cooperation and peaceful coexistence under the new conditions that developed in that country.

The warring factions need to search within themselves for answers to the vexing questions as to why the Slavic peoples of former Yugoslavia succeeded to forge a nation in spite of the religious differences that existed between them and why now, and all of a sudden, these differences have been accentuated and blown out of proportion in an era in international civilisation when distinctions between peoples on the bases of religion, ethnic origin, race or colour are no longer tolerated. This is the fundamental issue that all Bosnians, Serbs and Croats must address before any of the international efforts to settle the situation in former Yugoslavia can come to fruition.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE AIR exclusion zone in southern Iraq and the British, French and American threats against Iraq constitute a flagrant violation of international law and an open defiance to the Arab Nation, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said Britain, France and the U.S. have interest in what they are doing, namely to weaken the Arabs and dominate the oil wealth in the Gulf. Another link of the current conspiracy being hatched against the Arabs is the looming threat, on the part of the three Western colonial powers, against Libya, which has refused to succumb to the desires of the aggressors, said the paper. It said that these events are reminiscent of the colonial era and the attitude of the colonial powers in the 19th century. Furthermore, it said, the threats against Libya and Iraq, and the possible aggression on the Iraqi people are not conform to the current efforts to establish peace and security in the Middle East region. It feared that the escalation of tension in the Gulf could even cause the peace process in Washington to collapse, added the daily. Of course, the colonial powers are currently exploiting the weak Arab nation and are implementing plots and conspiracies at will in violation of all norms and laws, it continued.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that Britain, through its embassy in Amman, is trying to improve its image among the Jordanian public which refuses such a cheap attempt. The British embassy here issues a monthly newsletter which, it said, is aimed at further boosting British-Jordanian friendly relations, said Fakhr Kavar. He said there is no such friendship between Britain and the Jordanian people in the first place, and the British embassy is trying to deceive the minds of the Jordanian people through this meaningless newsletter. The Jordanian people realise too well the evil nature of Britain which has been behind all ills and sufferings of the Palestinian people and realise it was Britain which has planted Israel in the midst of the Arab World and helped uproot the Arabs from their homes in Palestine, said the writer. There can be no friendship whatsoever between the Arabs and the British as long as London's policies are directed against the Arab national interests and as long as Britain adopts hostile attitudes towards the Arab people, the writer continued. Does the aggression on Iraq help London win the respect of the Arab people, and do London's open threats to the Arab people contribute towards bolstering friendship? asked Kavar. He said that the Jordanians do not harbour any enmity towards the British people, but they do oppose London's policies which are imperialist in nature, intended to dominate the smaller nations of the world. The charge d'affaires at the British Embassy here said the writer should realise that the Jordanian people has reservations about their friendship and relationship with Britain as well as its policies are hostile to the Arab aspirations and interests.

The myth of Rabin's security settlements

By Nasser H. Aruri

The ascendancy of Yitzhak Rabin to power was greeted with widespread approval in the United States and among official circles in the Arab World.

An embattled U.S. president, pondering his sagging popularity in the latest public opinion polls, viewed Mr. Rabin's reemergence with great relief. Not only does Mr. Rabin symbolise the termination of an acrimonious relationship between two strategic allies, but he is also seen as an electoral crutch for President Bush. There was no more reason for Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker to withhold the \$10bn loan guarantees. Given this, Mr. Rabin is in a no-lose situation, whether or not he violates either the spirit or the letter of Washington's guidelines for extending the loan guarantees. He can certainly afford to respond to these conditions with a vagueness that is not likely to undergo genuine scrutiny.

Consequently, Mr. Rabin will be consecrated as the peacemaker, irrespective of any real qualitative change from the Likud zealots and ideologues; and notwithstanding his earlier record.

Rabin's settlement policy

The issue of building settlements has emerged as central in the stalled Arab-Israeli negotiations. Will Mr. Rabin's policies remove the hurdles and pave the way toward substantive talks? The Labour party platform pledged that 'new settlements will not be established and existing settlements will not be thickened, except for those in Greater Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.' Mr. Rabin himself, however, has never pledged to refrain from building new settlements. His criterion is a familiar concept in the Israeli politico-strategic lexicon: security. Thus 'security settlements' are not desirable for Mr. Rabin, but, by definition, necessary. Political or ideological settlements, on the other hand, promoted by the Likud, are not to be vigorously

constructed, but are not to be 'dried out' either by Mr. Rabin's government.

Although Mr. Rabin's differentiation has been publicly declared unacceptable by the United States and the Palestinians, neither party has made a total freeze, irrespective of Mr. Rabin's classification, a prior condition for extending loan guarantees and resumption of talks, respectively. In fact, the classifications, despite the absence of a genuine difference between Mr. Rabin and his former boss Mr. Shamir, seem to intrigue the various strange bedfellows, who, for their own reasons, pursue an accord at any cost.

According to Meron Benvenisti, the former Israeli deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin's 'security' region encompasses 2,800 square kilometres or 51 per cent of the West Bank, itself 22 per cent of mandated Palestine. This region already has 76 settlements inhabited by 71,000 Israelis and 400,000 Arabs. The latter constitute about 40 per cent of the Palestinians in the West Bank. Mr. Shamir's 'political' settlements, on the other hand,

number 51, with a population of 124,000 settlers.

Given that the term 'security', as understood in Zionist literature and strategic parlance, puts a high premium on demography, the distinction between Mr. Rabin's security settlements and Mr. Shamir's political settlements is immaterial. Both concepts aim to render Palestinian demographic continuity and therefore national independence on a single terrain impossible.

During his rule between 1974-1977, Mr. Rabin revised the Allon Plan by extending the territorial boundaries of Jerusalem northwards to Ramallah and southwards to Bethlehem and building four major Jewish centres of population: Givat Ze'ev, Bet El, Ma'ale Admunim and Efrat. He was also prodded by Gush Emunim to build the settlements of Elkana and Ariel in the Nablus vicinity.

Labour may differ from Likud in emphasis but not in substance. For Mr. Rabin the activities of the zealots in Ateret Cohanim, which include acquiring one house here and another there in the Old City outside the Jewish

Quarter, are rather 'foolish'. They generate negative publicity for Israel in an area of high media exposure. 'What is more important' for Mr. Rabin 'is to establish a Jewish link between Ma'ale Admunim and Jerusalem.'

Such 'links' have been at the heart of Israel's settlement policy since 1948, a period during which the Labour party was in power twice as long as Likud was. It is a period during which 'security' for Jews was synonymous with the dismemberment of the Arab community, first in what became Israel after 1948 and later in the remainder of Palestine occupied in 1967. These links, made with the intention of foreclosing any type of Palestinian independence and an irrevocable denial of national rights, are also at the root of a well-known yet hardly publicised plan known as the Seven Stars.

The Seven Stars plan

It remains to be seen what the Rabin government will do with this plan, which was adopted in 1991 and placed in the custody of Ariel Sharon. It was a ready-

made project for the champion of the 'not a single inch policy', who was candid about its real objective: 'Irrespective of the kind of settlement that may be reached with the Palestinians in the future, this plan will create irreversible facts when the settlements of Judea and Samaria and those inside Israel are inextricably linked to each other.'

The Seven Stars plan aims to colonise the remainder of the Palestinian-inhabited Triangle district in Israel and to simultaneously erase the Green Line (the 1948 Armistice Line), thus forestalling a territorial withdrawal and Palestinian independence. The 'security' concept of the plan is based on encirclement of Arab villages and towns, establishing Jewish links between colonial settlements on both sides of the Green Line and linking them in turn with the coastal area.

The plan is anchored on a projected Highway No. 6 that would extend 63 kilometres from the Arab town of Umm Al Fahm in the northern Triangle to Modin in the south. A strip of 80 kilometres in a predominantly Arab community on both sides of the Green Line is envisaged, with Jewish population centres, industrial parks and infrastructure. This region, in which 130,000 Arabs and 40,000 Jews live, is expected to have 393,400 Jews and 162,100 Arabs by the year 2005. Even as early as 1995, the Arabs who now constitute 71.5 per cent of the population will be reduced to 36 per cent, while the 28.5 per cent Jewish minority will become 64 per cent.

Given that a central objective of the plan is to create a new population axis to parallel that in the thickly settled coastal region, and thus facilitate absorption of new immigrants and redistribution of population, it will be necessary to build an entire infrastructure, including public services, transport, commerce, health, industry and culture. Four major cities will be erected around a nucleus of Jewish settlements along both sides of the Green Line: Reyhan, Kokhaf-Yair, Rosh Hain and Modin.

The real challenge to Mr. Rabin, who espouses 'security' settlements and publicly shuns the 'political' settlements of Mr. Shamir and Mr. Sharon, is the fact that the Seven Stars plan cuts across both of these philosophies. He can certainly argue that the project is designed to facilitate the absorption of new Jewish immigrants within the Green Line. Hence it is not only in accord with Labour's policy of reordering the country's priorities away from the occupied territories and towards absorption of immigrants and creation of new jobs inside Israel, but is also consonant with the Bush administration's guidelines for the loan guarantees.

But the fact is that the Seven Stars plan, which is administered by the ministers of interior, housing, defence, commerce, industry and transport, is premised on the necessity of creating an organic 'link' between these new settlements of Ariel, Kadumim, Ennabul, Shomron, Hainat, and others in the Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarm axis which abuts the Green Line. Strictly speaking, the latter

are 'political' settlements and yet they will be integrated with new settlements inside Israel, which will encroach on the Arab citizens of Israel whose own security, sense of community and geographic and cultural continuity will be threatened, not to mention the devastating impact on their environment and access to their land.

It is also important to note that the Seven Stars plan has emerged as a substitute for an earlier concept designed to ease the demographic pressure on the coastal region. Accordingly, new immigrants would have been settled in sparsely populated areas north and south of the Triangle. But with Mr. Sharon at the helm in the Housing Ministry, the ideological and 'security' dimensions of colonisation merged. Will Mr. Rabin separate the two and will his 'security' dimension be interpreted in military-strategic terms or in demographic terms? The experience of the 1950s and 60s, when Labour was in power, does not augur well for an outcome based on separating the two dimensions.

The challenge facing Bush

The challenge to Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker, on the other hand, is to determine whether the Seven Stars plan encroaches on their well-publicised guidelines for loan guarantees and whether the United States, as the guardian of the 'peace process', can afford to make yet another modification of international law to snuff strategic interests and electoral needs, at the very time that it threatens military action against Iraq in the name of upholding international legitimacy.

There was a time when U.S. policy on building settlements in occupied territories was in accord with international law. Up to Jimmy Carter's tenure, settlements were considered 'illegal' within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Ronald Reagan altered the policy when he declared that the settlements are 'not illegal', a finding that was later tempered by his professional diplomats to make the settlements merely 'an obstacle to peace'. Will Mr. Reagan's successor maintain that interpretation or further revise international law to accommodate a particular brand of Zionist precepts?

The Palestinian victims of Zionism have seen no substantive difference between the successors of Jabotinsky and those of Weizmann. Both viewed a Jewish state in Palestine as an outpost of civilisation in the midst of barbarism and considered the indigenous Palestinians as a demographic problem. Both deny the Palestinians national rights, territorial contiguity, political independence and the right to designate their own representatives. It remains to be seen whether the future rounds of negotiations will demonstrate a difference that can prove worthwhile in a changing world.

Dr. Aruri is professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and a member of the Palestine National Council. The above article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

New round of peace talks is bound to show Rabin's true colours

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

A decision by the Western powers to create an air exclusion zone in Iraq attracted the attention of all Jordanian newspapers and columnists over the past week. Other topics discussed include the ongoing peace process and a number of domestic affairs.

Under the title: 'A Stab in the Heart of the Arab Nation' Al Dustour daily said that the Western powers which are set on dismembering the Arab Nation are now bent on far more dangerous moves designed to partition the Arab countries one by one.

The paper said that the Western powers, the descendants of the crusaders of the Middle Ages, have come to the Arabs with new, diabolic plots that aim at annihilating their existence.

Every day, the United States proves to the world that it is launching a crusade against the Arab nation, said Salameh Ekour in Sawt Al Shaab. Washington started its evil campaign against the Arabs by forcing the Zionists' hands over Palestine and now it is turning its attention to colonising Iraq and the Gulf states, said the writer.

The United States is not only assisted by the Western allies in its drive against the Arabs, it is also helped by Arab regimes aligned against Iraq and intent on serving their imperialist masters and Israel's purpose, he said.

According to Saleh Al Qalab, in Al Dustour, if the U.S.-perpetrated plot in Iraq is allowed to succeed, no Arab country will be safe from a similar measure.

The writer said that the Americans are bent on setting one faction in the Arab World against another and inciting each Arab country to fight its neighbours in order to ensure a continued weak Arab Nation.

The writer said that if the Shiites in southern Iraq are allowed to set up their own separate entity, then the Shiites in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Lebanon and other areas are bound to make similar moves.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that true Arabs, and those who are keen on safeguarding the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq,

should make their moves and should work in concert to abort the U.S.-led plot against Iraq. The writer said the danger inherent in the U.S. partitioning plot in Iraq should be exposed and the Arab masses should realise the seriousness of the situation.

Taher Al Udwan said that the Western power's decision was bound to encourage Iraq to send thousands of armed men to the marshlands in southern Iraq to stir trouble for the Baghdad government which would not be in a position to defend itself.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dustour, said that the Iranians are bound to exploit the situation and lure the Shiites of the south to set up their own entity.

The writer said that statements coming out from Cairo and Damascus, in support for Iraq's unity, are nice words, but words are not enough in the face of the conspiracy.

The Arab regimes should transcend differences and work together to protect their nation, he said.

His views were echoed by a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that all the Arabs are offering Iraqis lip service and statements of support. Bader Abdul Haq said that Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries ought to openly declare their support for Iraq's unity.

According to Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, Washington's moves against Iraq are not over Kuwait but rather to achieve America's full domination over the Gulf states' wealth and insulating Israel against any Arab danger.

America, the writer said, is dreaming of holding the world's oil wealth so that it can control the world in the coming decade; for this reason it is partitioning Iraq to ensure such a domination.

The Arab citizens can only feel the bitterness and frustration upon hearing certain Arab countries urging their Western allies to launch war on Iraq and to partition that country, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

It said that the oil-rich Arab states are harming the Arab people in Iraq and doing serious damage to the national cause.

The creation of a Shiite state in southern Iraq and a Kurdish one in the north, the paper said, is part of a dangerous conspiracy against the Arab and Islamic nations.

Fakhr Saleh, who writes for Al Dustour, said that Iran has been pressuring the Western powers to take the step of partitioning Iraq, a target which Tehran has sought during the eight-year Gulf war without success. The writer said that a Shiite mini-state in southern Iraq is bound to create more tension in the Gulf area and give Iran further influence over its destiny.

The sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks, which began last week in Washington, came under discussion by Sawt Al Shaab daily which said that the negotiations will expose the truth about Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's intentions.

The paper said that Mr. Rabin is facing the test of whether he will be pursuing Jewish settlement policies at the talks. It said that the whole future of the peace process rests in the hands of the Rabin government because it is up to this government to comply with the requirements of a just peace.

The Arab parties to the peace negotiations in Washington have a golden opportunity now to exercise their own pressure on the U.S. administration to bring about a real change in the Israeli position, said Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

The writer said that President Bush, who is struggling to win the presidential election at all cost, will not be satisfied with just any results from the current round of negotiations; he wants to reach concrete results. Therefore, he said, the Arabs are in a position to exercise pressure and demand their just rights.

There is no doubt that the Washington peace talks are of importance following the election of a Rabin government in Israel which has been bragging about its intentions to reach peace with the Arabs, said Taher Al Udwan in Al Dustour.

The writer said that despite the expectations no sign has yet come from Israel about a

withdrawal from Arab lands or recognition of Palestinian rights.

The Arab parties to the talks should cling hard to their position, should demand clearcut pledges and practical steps to end the occupation and should not accept a mere self-rule under Israeli domination, advised the writer.

For Mohammad Kawash, in Al Dustour, the Israelis are pursuing two parallel lines in their dealings with the Palestinian question. They are pursuing the peace negotiations at a time when they continue to consolidate their stand in the Arab lands, he said. Therefore, the writer said, the Palestinian intifada should be escalated, regardless of the Palestinian participation in the peace process.

A columnist in Al Dustour advocated the cause of the unregistered journalists who staged a sit-in before the Parliament this month, in support of their demand that the draft law on press and publications be amended.

Issa Shueibi said that the existing draft law is damaging to the journalists and their cause because the majority of the journalists are unregistered with the press association and do not wish to join it.

He said that depriving the unregistered journalists from assuming their role as journalists and preventing them from writing in the press can only cause further rifts.

The writer said that the association is hounded with numerous problems and these do not encourage non-members to join it.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the private schools in Jordan for failing to adopt clearcut principles and criteria for registering and admitting students from government or other private schools.

Nazih said that some of the schools accept students with low average grades and turn away others with higher grades. The writer called on the government to interfere and force these schools to adopt acceptable regulations in this respect.

LETTERS

Historical rights

To the Editor:

I am an Abkhazian woman, born and raised in Sukhumi; I am married to a Jordanian and we live in Salt.

This summer, my family and I went to visit our relatives in Sukhumi. It was quiet there at the time. We left my home town on August 12. Three days later, back in Jordan, we saw on TV tanks in the streets of my peaceful town and heard the terrible word 'war'.

Since then there is no peace on my mind. I am far from my homeland, from my parents and brother. I know nothing about them and I cannot help them. But I cannot keep silent either.

The information given by the media to people who know Georgia (Abkhazian region) is not complete and will not help anyone have a fair picture of the situation there.

The Georgian government shows the Abkhazians as supporters of the overthrown President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. I can safely say that the Abkhazians never supported Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his policy which showed no sympathy to my people.

Abkhazia was independent as far as 1921, when the Soviet Union was just being formed. Later, when Stalin (a Georgian) came to power, he included Abkhazia into Georgian territory. This was followed by mass resettling of population, with many Georgians moved into Abkhazia.

Time and again the Abkhazians tried to regain their independence, but to no avail. And Georgia was not pleased with the latest attempt to declare independence and so they 'reoccupied' Abkhazia.

Today Abkhazia is bleeding. Tomorrow it will be left without its original population and its name will disappear. This is the desire of the Georgians and their leader, Shevardnadze, who want to build their own independent, democratic country on the blood of my people.

Abkhazia is small. Abkhazians are few, but they live on their historical land. Small or big, it is their country and nobody has the right to take it away from them.

Ada Shanty,
Salt.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Mideast peace negotiators laud peace process, reserve judgment on final outcome

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The sixth round of the Middle East peace talks continued Thursday, with Arab spokesmen lauding the new congenial atmosphere surrounding the process, but reserving judgement on whether the more relaxed dealings between Israel and its Arab neighbours will translate into progress at the negotiating table.

Jordan has reported good progress in talks with Israel to fix and agenda for substantive peace negotiations.

Jordanian spokesman Marwan Muasher said the Thursday morning session of negotiations included a general meeting between the Israeli delegation and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

That was followed by a meeting of the Jordanian-Israeli track — the fourth for this week. Jordanian delegates also met with Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Edward Djerejian, during which the U.S. official was briefed on developments in the talks and the two sides exchanged views on issues.

The Jordanian side gave an in-depth analysis and rationale behind the exact wording that was used in the draft agenda which was presented in response to the agenda proposed by Israeli delegates.

Dr. Muasher indicated that the gap between the two sides has been bridged on many of the items on the agenda, but added that there are still items over principles which the Jordanian side feels cannot be compromised and cannot be sugarcoated.

These are issues that have to be spelled out explicitly, he said. He cautioned against interpreting agreement on the agenda as agreement on the issues.

Dr. Muasher said the Jordanian delegation feels it has been "extremely accommodating" without compromising on principles that are crucial to the peace process.

Israeli delegates said they had to consult with their government, to come back either with a version of the agenda that both sides can agree on, he said, otherwise, both parties will have to think of another mechanism to agree on the issues that are to be discussed.

More specifically, Dr. Muasher said that the gap has been closed as far as "the wording of items" and in the willingness of the Israeli side to discuss issues that are sensitive to either party. "The Israelis have, I would say, closed the gap on one important issue, which is the issue of comprehensiveness of any peaceful settlement," he said, adding that for the first time, the Israelis are now acknowledging that peace has to be comprehensive in the area. That, he said, is a "positive development."

He added however, that the gap has not closed on many of the other substantive issues.

Dr. Muasher cited settlements and the issue of refugees as examples of "sticking points" in the negotiations between the two sides. Settlements, he said, remain a major direct threat to Jordanian security. He explained the problem as follows: "The Israelis would want, for example, the issue of refugees to be on the agenda, but they have some problem with the United Nations resolutions over this issue, for example. So some issues that we're discussing, the Israelis would want to defer to the multilateral area; in some issues they have problems with certain wordings or certain references," he said, indicating that the situation differs according to the different topics.

He continued: "The Israelis do have a problem with putting the word 'settlements' on the agenda. They still have a problem with even the word itself. But, again, like I said, sometimes it is not the major heading that creates the problem but the sub-headings under it... We're not trying to reach a common agenda for agreement's sake. It is only the first step towards discussing all of the issues."

He cautioned against belittling the importance of the work that goes into reaching agreement on the agenda. Agreement on a common agenda would be a "very important step," he said, adding that this should not be looked at as agreement on "seven or eight words."

"The agenda is more detailed than that and really addresses many of the issues under each major heading. And this is what we're still trying to do," he said.

Asked whether the relation between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule body is on the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli track, Dr. Muasher replied in the negative, saying it was decided a long time ago that the Palestinians are solely responsible for negotiating the self-government arrangement with the Israelis.

"We are in no way involved other than to coordinate our positions with the Palestinians and other than to discuss with the Israelis issues that do not pertain exclusively to each track without negotiating these issues. The process of negotiation lies solely with the Palestinian delegation and not with us," he said.

Asked whether the Jordanian side had felt a change in Israel's policy, Dr. Muasher said it is premature to pass judgement on that issue. Given that what the Jordanian side has seen was a

difference in tone, any indication of a difference in policy has to be determined when discussions of the issues themselves begin.

He stressed that there were still serious differences between Jordan and Israel on very basic issues, and that the progress made thus far is limited to agreement on which items are open to discussion. When asked by reporters whether there has been a real, substantive change in the Israeli attitude towards the peace process, he — like other Arab spokesmen — said that only time will tell.

"Is there a difference in tone? Yes. Is there a difference in substance? We don't know yet," Dr. Muasher said.

Israeli-Palestinian talks

Meanwhile, the Israeli-Palestinian talks have produced two proposals — one from each side — which "happen to be incompatible," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

She described the Israeli proposal as a "regression" from the Camp David peace agreement of the late 1970s, which mentions the withdrawal of the Israeli military and civil administrations from the occupied territories. In contrast, Dr. Ashrawi said, the proposal tabled by the Israelis here in Washington mentions "no such thing."

Current authority in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip rests with the Israeli cabinet, parliament and military police, Dr. Ashrawi pointed out, adding that the current talks are useful only if they broach the subject of what she called "a serious transfer of authority" in the occupied territories.

"We need to agree on a Palestinian source of authority," she said, noting that the Palestinian delegates will insist on obtaining legislative power for the Palestinian people.

Dr. Ashrawi also noted "serious omission" in the Israeli proposal, in that it contains no references to land or water — two issues heavily in dispute.

Despite these reservations, Dr. Ashrawi told reporters that it was "too early" to give up on the negotiations. There are "legal," "perceptual" and "political" differences between the two sides, she said, "but that doesn't mean we've reached an impasse."

The fundamental difference between them, Dr. Ashrawi noted, is that "they don't want us to get on the track of statehood... and we don't want them to close the door."

The tone of the conversations continues to be "pleasant and polite," but the Palestinians are "looking for substance" to com-

plement the newly congenial atmosphere, Dr. Ashrawi said. She chided the Israelis for the "schizophrenic" quality of their public-private utterances, and stressed that the Palestinian delegates are anxious to see Israel's positive, forward-looking statements translated into equally positive policies.

Dr. Ashrawi also expressed concern over the Bush administration's recent statements in support of Israel's request for \$10,000 million in loan guarantees to help settle new immigrants. The loans have a "direct bearing" on the peace talks, if the money can be used to continue the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, she said.

During Thursday meeting with Palestinian delegates, State Department officials stated, however, that the details of the agreement will not be divulged until the proposal has been presented to Congress, Dr. Ashrawi said. She added that the Palestinian delegation believes that the guarantees should not be granted unless Israel puts a stop to all Jewish construction in the territories.

Dr. Ashrawi said she and her

colleagues had received numerous appeals this week from Palestinians currently detained in Israeli prisons and who, she charged, are regularly mistreated. These prisoners asked that the international community be made aware of their situations as the peace talks continue, because "they don't want to be the forgotten Palestinians," Dr. Ashrawi said.

State Department spokesman Joseph Snyder said the United States was "encouraged" by the atmosphere surrounding the discussions, which began Aug. 24 and are expected to continue for one month.

Syrian-Israeli talks

Similarly, Syrian spokesman Mowaffaq Allaf said members of his delegation were pleased with the tone of the talks. "Unfortunately, after four days... we can't report any real change in the substantive issues" that divide Israel and Syria, he added.

"Maybe four days is too little time to judge or reach a definite conclusion," Mr. Allaf said, noting that Syria is determined to make progress in what he described as "an historic opportunity" for the Middle East.

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For Syria, he said, the goal of the peace process is to obtain Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We came here for a comprehensive settlement and a comprehensive peace," he declared, when asked if Damascus would accept a partial Israeli withdrawal from that territory. Mr. Allaf told

reporters that Syria had not yet received a proposal from Israel, but that it would consider any plan for a partial withdrawal "a dangerous setback."

For its part, Syria is "prepared and ready" to table a proposal of its own, but it first needs to see "proof of seriousness" on the part of the newly elected govern-

ment of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Allaf assured reporters that if the Israeli government does agree to its terms, Syria is prepared to go "as far as we are required to go" to meet Israel's need for safe and secure borders. "Peace," he said, "will be the most precious prize" of a successful settlement.

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Balkan peace

(Continued from page 1)

were prepared to give a fifth of their captured Bosnian territory to Muslims. They now control about 70 per cent of the former republic.

The nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) said on Friday it stood ready to help tighten sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro both in the Adriatic and on the Danube but stopped short of ordering any immediate new measures.

Defence and foreign ministers of the WEU, in a statement issued after a two-hour meeting, also endorsed Thursday's decisions by the international conference on Yugoslavia to expand U.N. protection of aid convoys in Bosnia.

Italian ministers, representing the WEU presidency, gave details of contributions being made by individual WEU nations to a new, bigger U.N. protection force in Bosnia and said assisting U.N. manning of heavy weapons was discussed.

On sanctions, the WEU welcomed the conference's decision to make U.N. sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state of Serbia and Montenegro as effective as possible and offered to contribute to any further measures deemed necessary.

In Sarajevo, U.N. personnel hid in shelters Friday as Serb shells and rockets crashed into the city and set an iron and steel complex ablaze.

Under the stairs of a high-rise building, mothers pressed babies to their chests and little boys buried their heads into their father's stomachs as the ground shook.

"What agreement? Is this an agreement?" Monir Dobarca, a 35-year-old bus driver said of the London peace talks as another shell landed and plaster chips fell into his hair.

"Whenever the Serbs sign anything, their guns do the real talking," he said.

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Lendl, Becker advance in U.S. Open tuneup

COMMACK, New York (R) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker won their second-round matches at the \$265,000 Hamlet Cup tennis tournament.

Lendl, seeded third, beat unseeded Olivier Delaire of France, 6-4, 6-1, and Becker, seeded fifth, rallied to eliminate fellow-German Carl-Ewe Steeb, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

The joined top-seed Stefan Edberg and qualifier Carsten Arriens of Germany who advanced in scorching 38 degrees Celsius temperatures in the afternoon.

Edberg, tuning up to defend his title at the U.S. Open championships that begin next week, beat 181st-ranked Jimmy Arias of the United States 7-6 (7-3), 6-2.

In the other second-round match of the afternoon, Arriens upset eighth seeded Brad Gilbert of the United States 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4) in what Arriens said was "the biggest win in my life."

Edberg won the first set from Arias after jumping out to a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker. He swept the last four games of the second set, giving up five points.

"Today it wasn't easy being out there in the heat," Edberg said. "Arias usually has trouble with my service but I played good in the tiebreaker."

Looking towards the Open, he said, "I think I'm in the toughest half of the draw. I've got (Ivan) Lendl and (Boris) Becker in my quarter, (Michael) Chang and (Petr) Korda also in my half."

"I've had draws that were better, but if you want to win you have to go all the way. Many things can happen to change the draw as you go along," he said.

"I know the Open has always been the toughest tournament for me. I've had tough losses here. But I had a great tournament last year and now I'm playing solid tennis," Edberg said.

The 23-year-old Arriens, who had only one previous ATP Tour victory in four matches before earning a spot in the Hamlet

draw, said the victory over Gilbert has made him decide to keep trying to make it to the tour.

Arriens took advantage of Gilbert's errors and a double fault in the first tiebreaker then scored a service break to reach 6-3 in the second tiebreaker.

Becker dropped the first set to Steeb by losing service in the opening game and was unable to conquer Steeb's steady service. But he came back to take a 5-0 lead with the loss of eight points in the second set.

Becker broke a service duel by taking Steeb's service in the ninth game of the third set, helped by a double fault, and held service in the last game with volley placements.

"I feel I'm playing good tennis again," said Becker, referring to a comeback from hamstring problems. "I've been improving since Wimbledon where I reached the quarters. I hope I can continue."

Scheduled to face Lendl in the Hamlet quarters Friday, Becker said, "I expect a tough one with Ivan. It will be a good test for each of us. We're in the same bracket at the Open next week."

Lendl opened to a 5-0 lead over Delaire and was serving for the set at 5-3. Delaire broke Lendl's service and was at 30-all serving to reach 5-5.

At 30-all, a Delaire shot down the sideline was called out and upset the Frenchman, who went on to lose the set with an unforced error.

"It was a bad call, a big point," he said. "When it happens, you think about it. Then Lendl broke my service in the second set and you think about the mistake again."

Lendl, ranked ninth in the world, eased to a 5-0 lead in the second set, losing only seven points.

"I never saw Delaire play before," Lendl said. "The shot that upset him was definitely wide, no question about it."

"A player needs mental toughness to overcome any adversity,"

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Auriol leads in 1,000 Lakes Rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — Frenchman Didier Auriol, tipped as the likely 1992 world champion, took the early lead in the 1,000 Lakes Rally. Auriol, who has won four out of the five rallies he has raced this season, finished the first five-stage leg 12 seconds ahead of reigning champion and Lancia team mate Juha Kankkunen of Finland. Kankkunen, who lives in the rally centre of Jyväskylä and won in Finland last year, was three seconds ahead of third-placed compatriot Markku Aleo in a Toyota. World championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain, who has already raced in eight events this season, decided not to compete in Finland this year and his replacement, young Finn Marcus Gronholm, had a disastrous baptism. The Finn, who raised eyebrows when he was named to drive Sainz's Toyota, crashed out in the fifth stage when he lost a wheel in a spectacular accident. Finland's Tommi Makinen also hit trouble, losing two minutes with a gearbox problem in his Nissan.

Peugeot take provisional front row

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Peugeot raised their hopes of a first world sportscar title when their two cars grabbed the provisional front row for Sunday's fifth and penultimate round of the championship at Suzuka. In Friday's first qualifying session, drivers' title favourite Derek Warwick hurled his Peugeot 905 around the 5.864-km track in one minute 45.026 seconds. The Briton and his French co-driver Yannick Dalmas will win the drivers' championship just by finishing in the top eight and collecting at least three points. Warwick, 38, Thursday said: "I was so close to taking the title last year with Jaguar. I won Le Mans this year with Peugeot and that has given me a real chance of winning the championship. I still have my eyes on getting back into Formula One. I'm not too old and I'm driving as well as ever. But first I have to win the World Sportscar Championship." Peugeot, however, need one of their cars to finish first or second to win the team championship.

Ratcliffe left out of Wales squad

LONDON (R) — Former captain Kevin Ratcliffe was left out of Wales' squad Friday for their World Cup soccer qualifying match against the Faroe Islands in Cardiff. The Everton defender, who has won 58 caps since his debut in 1981, was not included for the Sept. 9 game by manager Terry Yorath despite being available for the first time since knee surgery last October. Wales, who lost 5-1 to Romania in their opening Group 4 match in May, will be strengthened in defence by the return of Crystal Palace centre-back Eric Young from injury. Among the youngsters included are Gary Speed of Leeds and Manchester United's Ryan Giggs. Yorath said: "We will have to wait and see if they both play but it is very exciting for Wales to be able to call on two players with such talent, flair and youth."

Cantona to miss World Cup qualifier

PARIS (R) — Striker Eric Cantona will not play for France in their World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria on Sept. 9, team boss Gerard Houllier said. "I talked with Eric and he told me he didn't feel mentally ready to play for France," Houllier said. Cantona, a substitute in France's 2-0 defeat by Brazil in a friendly Wednesday, plays for English champions Leeds. He has scored two hat-tricks this season, one in the Charity Shield against Liverpool earlier this month and the other one Tuesday in Leeds' 5-0 rout of Tottenham Hotspur.

Forget, Tauziat sign for Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — French pair Guy Forget and Natalie Tauziat have signed to compete in the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament in January, promoter Paul McNamee said. Forget, currently ranked at No. 7 on the men's tour, represented France in the 1990-91 Hopman Cup, while 13th ranked Tauziat will be making her first appearance in the event. "We have a policy of inviting the No. 1 ranked male and female players from each country we contact," said McNamee. The 12-team tournament, which features men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles matches, will begin on Jan. 1 next year, McNamee said. It is one of a series of warmup events held before the Australian Open.

Connors to compete in Champions Tour

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jimmy Connors will compete next year in a new tennis circuit for players 35 years of age and older. "They all want to play. It's a great way to get all the guys I grew up with back into the sport and back playing again," Connors said in New York, where he is preparing for next week's U.S. Open. Besides Connors, who has committed to play all five to seven events during the inaugural season of the Champions Tour, others who have indicated interest in playing include Bjorn Borg, Vitas Gerulaitis, Guillermo Vilas, Jose Luis Clerc, John Lloyd, Roscoe Tanner, Dick Stockton and Johan Kriek. "A lot of the guys have been out of tennis 8, 9, 10 years," Connors said. "Borg is one

them. They can still play." Connors has won 109 singles titles, more than any other male player in history, including two Wimbledon, five U.S. Opens and one Australian Open. He also spent 159 consecutive weeks ranked as the No. 1 player in the world, the longest uninterrupted bold on this position in the history of men's tennis.

Werdel upsets Sukova in OTB tournament

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — American Mariano Werdel upsets top-seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) to reach the quarterfinals of the \$255,000 OTB International Tennis Open. On the men's side, 21-year-old Australian Jamie Morgan upset seventh-seed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3). Morgan, coming off another upset victory against compatriot Mark Woodforde, relied on his strong serve to pull out the match in a convincing third-set tiebreaker. He fired three service winners and an ace to clinch it 7-3. Stephanie Rottier of the Netherlands, who survived three qualifying rounds to earn a spot in the main draw here, upset fifth-seed Laura Gildemeister 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals. Emilio Sanchez easily handled fellow-Spaniard Francisco Clavet 6-1, 6-2. Defending women's champion Brenda Shultz of the Netherlands served and volleyed her way past American Tami Whidinger 6-3, 6-2.

Muster advances in Croatian Open

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Top seed Thomas Muster of Austria defeated David Prinosil of Germany, 6-1, 6-0 to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$260,000 Croatian Open tennis tournament. In later play, Argentina's Guillermo Perez-Roldan, seeded eighth, defeated Patrick Baur of Germany, 6-7, 6-2, 7-5. And Claudio Mezzadri of Switzerland beat Spain's Marcos Gorriz, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5, after more than three hours of play. Muster will play Perez-Roldan in the quarterfinals. Muster needed only 54 minutes to beat Prinosil. He attacked each of Prinosil's serves, sending long balls to keep his opponent on the service line. Prinosil managed to win only one game, playing on the net. But Muster didn't let him approach it after that. In other qualifying games for the quarterfinals, Spain's third-seeded Jordi Arrese, ranked 20th in the ATP, defeated Brian Davenport of the United States, 7-5, 7-5, late Wednesday. He meets Jose Altur of Spain, who defeated Belgium's Bart Wuyts, 6-1, 6-3.

Latvia hold Denmark

RIGAL, Latvia (AP) — Kim Christoffe's 84th-minute header went just over the crossbar, forcing European champion Denmark to settle for a 0-0 draw with heavy underdog Latvia in a European Group 3 World Cup qualifying match Wednesday. Denmark applied its most serious pressure in the final 10 minutes, but poor finishing — including several shots wide of the post — and several good saves by Latvian keeper Olegs Karavajevs preserved the scoreless tie. The Latvians raised their arms in triumph at the final whistle, earning its first point in World Cup qualifying after only being admitted to FIFA in December. In its first and only other game in qualifying, Baltic neighbour Lithuania beat Latvia 2-1 in Riga on Aug. 12. Despite controlling most of the game, the Danes appeared disorganised. "We lacked precision," Danish forward Flemming Povlsen of Germany's Borussia Dortmund said on Danish television. Latvia, despite being on the defensive for most of the match, managed a few scoring opportunities, including one in the 43rd minute when Juris Popkova took advantage of a Danish defensive error to find himself in front of keeper Peter Scheichel, only to shoot wide.

Comas crashes in Grand Prix practice

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Frenchman Erik Comas was taken by helicopter to hospital Friday after crashing during the morning practice session for this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix. Comas, 28, lost control of his car at the sweeping, high-speed Blanchimont left-hand corner on the fast Spa circuit. He was pulled from his Ligier car and taken to the circuit medical centre where preliminary examinations revealed no serious injuries. He was flown to hospital for a precautionary scan after being stunned. His car slewed off the track and crashed heavily, losing its right front and right rear wheels and much bodywork, and left black braking lines across the kerbs. The session was halted for 30 minutes.

Prototype race in Spain cancelled

PARIS (AP) — The sports prototype auto race scheduled for Oct. 4 in Jarama, Spain, has been cancelled because the track will not be ready, the International Auto Sports Federation (FISA) said. The race at Jarama, near Madrid, would have counted for the world championship. "Because of the lack of necessary work on the Jarama track sought by FISA and considering that the Spanish Auto Sports Federation is not prepared to respond to the requirements of FISA concerning this work, the race is cancelled," the governing federation said in a statement. It did not give any details on what kind of work had been demanded on the track.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Attending some meeting that means a good deal to you and the community in which you reside is the wise move in spite of any opposition that you may encounter. You have more supporters than you think.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are all too apt to use poor judgement where a material situation is concerned this day so postpone decisions requiring practical experience.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are apt to be mistaken in some personal goal you plan to go after in a stubborn manner today so doublecheck and be more flexible, malleable.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You feel by getting rid of a long standing problem you will be free of it but it can turn up again in a more annoying form until completely solved.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A desire you have can be further from you than you think due to some practical consideration so play for time until true facts come to life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your unusually good judgement about worldly conditions is now way off centre so do nothing of an outside nature until satisfied it is correct.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well whatever new

plans you have in mind and don't try to put them in motion this day unless an absolute necessity and then with much caution.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Keep your attention now focused upon the nitty gritty of your material interests and avoid an acquaintance with a big ego would absorb your time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Listen to suggestions made by an associate of strong convictions and sidestep a meeting with on in power who has his/her own axes to grind.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think over what you can do to be more efficient and steadfast in the performance of your usual day's duties and avoid going off to new scene.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Although you have an urge to get into business matters, put these off until you have perfected some talent which means a great deal to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a day to do those things that your family wants or expects of you in a very exact manner and don't let outside contacts entice you away from these.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can delve into whatever sources of information that gives you data that is essential in your success and don't let boring tasks keep you doing this.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I think we need to go back to the marriage counselor. I forgot your name again."

JUMBLE!

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Have you thought about using weight?

HE USUALLY SAYS WHAT HE THINKS, BUT HE DOESN'T ALWAYS DO THIS VERY WELL.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumble: PAPER AXOM SULTRY ATTAIN
Answer: He was a self-made man, but thanks to his wife's urging, plenty of these were made after they got married—ALTERATIONS

THE Daily Crossword

by Melvin Konworthy



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:

1 Across: 1 Spilled enjoyment
5 Previously, old style
10 Comic Bart
14 Cigar and
15 Poisons
16 Before distant and lateral
17 Western college letters
18 "Teaching" bear
19 Family circle member
20 Infirmary
22 Growing out
23 Chop
24 Bribe
26 Circle
28 Nuts
31 Mountain nymphs
36 Train whistles
37 Scurvy
38 Oratorio solo
40 Quilt
41 Mariner or
42 Tons
43 Ready, come
44 Call it — (quilt)
45 Mezzadri
46 Groceries
48 Construction place
50 Resistant sounds
51 Yousingers
53 Different
55 Name in violins
56 Lies
58 Indian ruler
59 Columbus' birthplace
60 Storm
61 Unanimously
67 Figure of speech
68 Catalogue
69 Cable call
70 Hang-up
71 Part of QED
DOWN
1 "Greek god
2 Incline
3 Fr. town
4 Sign of sorrow
5 One who degrades
6 Groceries
7 Aware of
8 Gamers
9 Inactive letters
10 Times of bait-tightening
11 — purr
12 Track game
13 Ceremony
21 Vets
22 Boof
25 Gun and corn
26 Different
27 Way to go
28 Ship's officer
30 — Larra
32 Crest
33 Train part
34 Satchel
36 Brainy group
38 — this thy days — (Bible)
41 Beach stuff
45 Formerly, once
47 3
48 Relieves
49 Cakes or
50 Den
51 A Maxwell
52 Paving stone
55 Stead
56 Family member
57 Party open
58 Cakes or
59 Den
60 Den
61 A Maxwell
62 Paving stone
64 Army man

Capriati eyes 1st Grand Slam title

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Jennifer Capriati is hoping to ride her Olympic gold medal performance to her first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open.

Capriati, who is seeded sixth at the Open which begins Monday, said she has rediscovered her old confidence and love of tennis as a result of her stellar performance in Barcelona.

"I'm having a lot of fun playing now and winning the gold medal makes it more fun," said the 16-year-old Capriati, who is defending her title at the Mazda Tennis Classic this week.

"Having the gold medal is more like a confidence booster. It's something that says I can play at the top level."

Capriati, who keeps her gold medal on her family's kitchen table, scored her first career win over Steffi Graf in the Olympic singles final.

That the win came at Graf's expense made the gold medal even more special and left Capriati bubbling with confidence. "Steffi was always the one I couldn't beat, even though I was close. Now, I have passed a level. I'm at a new, higher level," Capriati said.

"Winning at the Olympics proves to myself that I can win a big title," added Capriati. "I am very confident going into the U.S. Open, more confident than I have ever been."

Retired champion Chris Evert,



Jennifer Capriati

who stays in close contact with Capriati, said: "It was great for Jennifer to win the gold, especially since she's had such a lackluster year. She needed a big win to boost her confidence and to get the press off her back."

Last year's U.S. Open provided Capriati with a recurring nightmare.

Capriati pushed eventual champion Monica Seles to the brink of elimination in the semifinals only to allow the world number one back into the match. The American teen ended up losing a third-set tiebreaker after coming agonizingly close to reaching the final.

"It took me a couple of weeks, a couple of months actually, to forget about that loss," Capriati admitted.

"Sometimes I will be laying in bed thinking, 'gee, why couldn't I win just two more points at 5-4, 30-all in the third set.'"

Capriati, who will likely face Seles in the U.S. Open quarterfinals this year, said she hoped that thoughts of her Olympic gold medal sitting safely at home will help her win those two extra points this time around.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH ©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ87 ♣943 ♢J8 ♣KJ73
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ1063 ♣Q762 ♢5 ♣J62
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

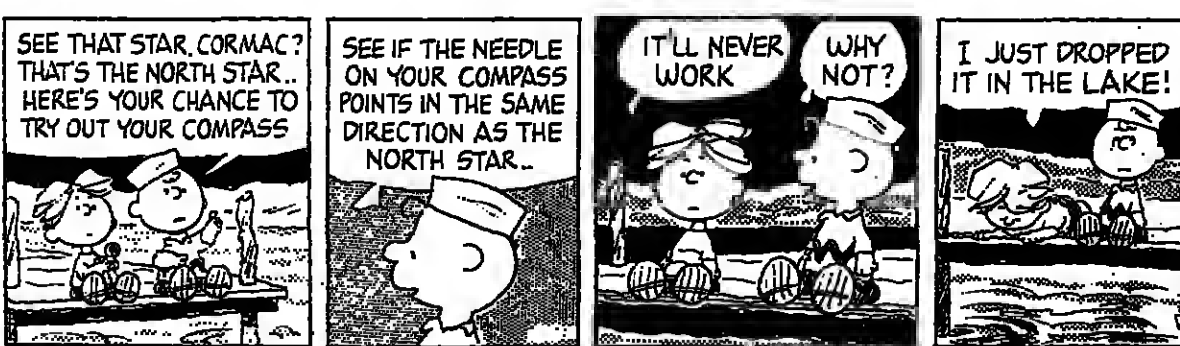
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ10 ♣985 ♢AK632 ♣A8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q9 ♣85 ♢K1083 ♣K108542
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

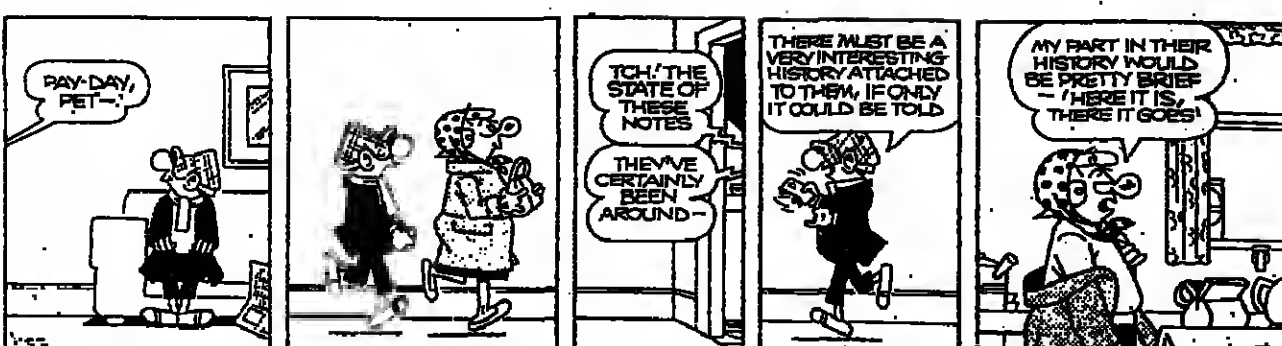
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ6 ♣7A3 ♢KJ104 ♣KQ9
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♣ Dbl Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠95 ♣KQJ983 ♢72 ♣AJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1992

Financial Markets

In cooperation with Cairo Arab Bank

Currency	New York Close 26/8/1992	Tel Aviv Close 27/8/1992
Sterling Pound	1.9845	1.9793
Deutsche Mark	1.4067	1.4133
Swiss Franc	1.2588	1.2661
French Franc	4.7970	4.8143
Japanese Yen	125.00	124.95
European Currency Unit	1.4366	1.4315

From For 2000
* European opening 60.00 am. local

Foreign Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.37	3.50	3.68
Sterling Pound	10.25	10.56	10.62	10.68
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.78	9.51	9.81
Swiss Franc	7.81	7.81	7.93	7.84
French Franc	10.21	10.40	10.50	10.50
Japanese Yen	3.95	3.75	3.65	3.43
European Currency Unit	11.12	11.18	11.18	11.12

Interest rate for deposits exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Forward Rates

Currency	USD/100	100/USD	100/100	100/100
Gold	338.70	6.50	Silver	3.70

Other Currencies

Currency	100/100	100/100
U.S. Dollar	0.6640	0.6640
Sterling Pound	1.3144	1.3144
Deutsche Mark	0.6703	0.6727
Swiss Franc	0.5285	0.5272
French Franc	0.1360	0.1387
Japanese Yen	0.5302	0.5329
Dutch Guilder	0.4469	0.4190
South African Rand	0.1287	0.1293
Italian Lira	0.0616	0.0619
Belgian Franc	0.0228	0.0229

Other Currencies

Currency	100/100	100/100
U.S. Dollar	1.7330	1.7420
Deutsche Mark	0.0265	0.0265
Swiss Franc	0.1764	0.1765
French Franc	2.2200	2.2100
Japanese Yen	0.1779	0.1813
Italian Lira	0.2000	0.2100
Belgian Franc	1.6970	0.17110
Dutch Guilder	0.1779	0.1813
Greek Drachma	0.5750	0.3860
Spanish Peseta	1.6060	1.6200

Key Indices for Annual Financial Market

Index	25.6.1992	26.6.1992	27.6.1992
All-Share	141.35	140.42	140.42
Banking Sector	105.29	104.54	104.54
Insurance Sector	147.96	147.46	147.46
Industry Sector	191.24	190.06	190.06
Services Sector	183.07	181.64	181.64

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

Currency	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.9835/45	1.9835/45
One U.S. dollar	1.1953/60	1.1953/60
Deutsche Mark	1.4052/57	1.4052/57
Swiss Franc	1.5835/45	1.5835/45
French Franc	1.2582/92	1.2582/92
Japanese Yen	125.00/00	125.00/00
Italian Lira	123.60/65	123.60/65
Spanish Peseta	166.66/66	166.66/66
Norwegian crown	5.1350/40	5.1350/40
Danish crown	5.4610/60	5.4610/60
One ounce of gold	\$340.50/341.00	\$340.50/341.00

South Pars boosts Iran's gas reserves

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh was quoted as saying Tehran has upgraded its gas reserves to 20 trillion cubic metres after the discovery of the South Pars field. "Prior to the discovery of the South Pars gas field we were estimating our gas reserves at around 17 trillion cubic metres. But after the South Pars discovery the gas reserves estimate has now been upgraded to 20 trillion cubic metres," Mr. Aghazadeh told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) in an interview.

Turkey to sell Uzbekistan 250,000 tonnes of sugar

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will sell 250,000 tonnes of sugar to Uzbekistan under a three-year credit agreement, the official gazette has said. The free-on-board (FOB) sales, from state-run sugar factories, would be made in three equal installments and would be at least at world prices. The terms of the credit would be determined by the Turkish treasury and Uzbek officials, it said. It gave no other details. Turkish Eximbank has agreed to give Uzbekistan a total of \$250 million to finance exports and contractor projects.

U.S. 'monetisation plan' for Somalia aims to put merchants back in business

MOMBASA, KENYA (R) — The United States, preparing an emergency relief to provide starving Somalis with food, plans to sell some of it instead of giving it away. Almost the only economic activity now taking place in Somalia is clan gunmen stealing relief supplies or guarding them from rivals, American aid experts say. Getting local merchants back into business with ample food on their shelves could save more lives than handouts by drawing hoarded stocks out of hiding, lowering prices and starting a revival of the economy, they say. "We'd like to flood the Somalia market with food... that's one of the things that's needed to restart the economy," said Rene Bafalis, an official of USAID, the U.S. Agency for International Development. Drought and anarchy have wrecked Somalia since the overthrow of president Mohamed Siad Barre in January last year. Somalis are starving to death at the rate of 2,000 a week and more than five million lives are believed to be in danger from hunger, relief workers say. U.S. officials and relief advisers said they planned food drops worth an estimated \$300 million to Somalia and the bordering region of northern Kenya in the next two months as a stop-gap measure to stop people from starving to death. But they see little hope for the future unless long-term aid is crafted to revive food production and a functioning market economy. The idea is to auction some food to Somali merchants, the backbone of the traditional economy, to drive market prices down, make looting unprofitable and unnecessary and generate some local cash to buy seeds to plant food again. "In terms of keeping people alive, the relief should succeed," said Riek Hill of the Texas-based Intersect Relief and Reconstruction Corp., which consults on disaster projects and recommended the plan. But he added that "a new strategy is needed because the current system of just handing out food is digging Somalia into a deeper hole" to view of its near-total anarchy and the rivalry between clan warlords. Officials said the U.S. "monetisation plan" for Somalia includes auctioning to Somali merchants some of the 145,000 tonnes of food pledged by the White House for Somali relief. They said the goal was to drive down prices which in turn, could persuade hoarders to release

Japan sees \$87 billion rescue package righting economic ship

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese government Friday approved the nation's largest-ever financial rescue package totalling 10.7 trillion yen (\$87 billion), a move which policymakers say will restore economic growth. However private economists said the official projections were over-optimistic and the package will probably only keep the economy from worsening significantly further. The ambitious plan spreads the cash over an array of projects. It includes tax cuts to stimulate corporate capital investment and advocates a plan to help banks dig their way out of the growing rubble of bad debts. A senior finance ministry official told a news conference the package would boost gross national product (GNP) in the 12 months from October by roughly 2.4 per cent, helping the economy approach the government's 3.5 per cent five-year growth goal. "Government numbers that high are propaganda," said Geoffrey Barker, economist at Baring Securities (Japan). He and other economists believe the package will add at most around one per cent to growth and that the economy will continue to be sluggish. The economy faces serious problems in the form of sharp declines in bank lending and high inventory levels — both of which are reflected in industrial production which has declined for 10 consecutive months with the outlook remaining bleak. That spells serious trouble for policymakers who face intense foreign pressure to spur the economy. They may have to consider further stimulative measures and lower interest rates, while grappling with falling tax revenues. While it may not be a panacea, economists said the package, which was larger than many have expected, promises to deliver a significant confidence boost to the nation. In the heaviest estimated trade of the year, with an estimated 850 million shares changing hands, the 225-share Nikkei average jumped 415.79 points or 2.37 per cent to 17,970.79. "The package is more aggressive than people had expected," said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, economist at Credit Suisse. The package seemed to have something for everybody. Economists said it was designed to attack the roots of the so-called "combined recession" — the result of dramatic declines in asset prices after the collapse of the bubble economy as well as what is generally believed to be a cyclical downturn reflected in weak consumer demand and high inventory levels. The hallmark of the package was an 8.6 trillion yen (\$69.9 billion) increase in public investment. Economists said that spending will have the highest real impact but added that policymakers appeared to count on greater follow-through spending than they thought likely. Another 2.1 trillion yen (\$17 billion) of loan provisions from government-affiliated financial institutions for promoting private

industrial investment was the other major disbursement. But economists said much of that amount will simply consist of funds recycled through the postal saving system's fiscal investment and loan programme. This would ultimately probably have been invested in the economy anyway. The plan also includes efforts to stabilise the creaking financial system but those also may have a mixed effect. The government's moral suasion of investors, asking them not to take easy profits before the fiscal half-year ends in September, has given the stock market a real boost. But a plan to support the creation of a bank "lifeline" company may have a hard time getting off the ground. The proposed company aims to support banks by buying land they hold against bad real estate loans. But legal and technical problems may stop it getting under way until next year. With the package in place, debate now promises to centre on just how to pay for everything.

OECD warns Bonn on budget deficits

BONN (R) — The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has warned Germany that its public-sector debt could get out of control despite vigorous government efforts to control it. "While contingencies have been made for such events, there is a risk of a rise in public-sector indebtedness beyond current official estimates, which could have adverse implications for financial market confidence, preventing interest rates from falling," the OECD said. "Determined measures are required to keep the underlying fiscal position under control," the OECD report added. Heavy government borrowing to finance German unification, along with wages and price pressures have helped to keep interest rates high. The discount rate has been at a record eight per cent since December. The OECD supported the Bundesbank, Germany's fiercely independent central bank, in its insistence that interest rates need to be kept high to counter inflation. But it also said the bank should not get too worried about a rapid increase in money supply this year, which it said could be due to special factors. "A temporary above-target monetary expansion would not seem to call for further tightening of monetary conditions, but there should be no let up in the pursuit of lower inflation, even if

this means high interest rates for a prolonged period," the report said. The OECD gave a generally favourable report on German economic policy and said the massive transfers of resources from west to east Germany were beginning to bear fruit. "However, the costs in terms of employment losses in the east and in deteriorating public finances have been high," it pointed out. Wages in east Germany had risen too fast and this had been a major contribution to rising unemployment in the region. "With output in western Germany growing below potential and labour shedding in the east continuing, though at a reduced rate, unemployment is likely to rise," the OECD predicted. It forecast total German unemployment in 1993 at 3.14 million, compared with a projected 3.12 million in 1992. This would represent 8.2 per cent of the workforce, compared with a projected eight per cent this year. The OECD repeated its forecast in June's semi-annual report on the world economy that German economic growth should accelerate to about 2.8 per cent in 1993 from 1.8 per cent in 1992.

Protestant blames Irish joblessness on baby boom

DUBLIN (R) — An Irish Protestant leader, questioning the Roman Catholic church ban on contraception, said population growth was a major cause of Ireland's jobs crisis. One in five Irish is jobless, the country has been hit by news of redundancies this month and economists have forecast up to 500,000 could be unemployed by the year 2000. Christ Church Cathedral Dean John Patterson said unemployment might not be so high in predominantly Roman Catholic Ireland had the population remained static over the past 30 years like most of Europe. The Protestant churchman, giving a sermon in Dublin said he did not want to be confrontational but had to question Roman Catholic teaching on family planning. "Far too often people simply

say the government must do something about it but we have to look at what each of us can do," he said. "If there had not been the increase in population, we might not have had the problems with the economy we are having."

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CHOIR SINGING

The YWCA in Amman takes pleasure in inviting male and female singers to join its 4-voice choir in preparation for its annual classical Christmas concert that will be held between 10-20 December, 1992. Possibility for extra sessions.

Interested (amateur/professional) singers are kindly requested to be present at the YWCA hall, 3rd Circle, on Tuesday, September 1, at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals are usually held every Tuesday night from 7:30 to 10:00, August through December.

For joining, please call the YWCA on tel.: 641119, 641793, 655475 between 9-1, except on Sundays. Knowledge of music would be an asset.

P.S.: A piano accompanist is needed (not less than grade 8 or equivalent).

Armenia, Azerbaijan support Nagorno-Karabakh peace plan

Shevardnadze to meet Yeltsin on Abkhazia

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan bowed to growing international pressure for peace in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh Friday by pledging support for the latest ceasefire proposals.

But the impact of diplomacy was yet to be felt in Georgia where Moscow Television said exchanges of fire were continuing in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia between government and rebel forces, risking dragging Russia into the conflict.

A local media report of 14 people killed in fresh bombing raids over Nagorno-Karabakh's capital Stepanakert did not augur well for enforcement of an Azeri-Armenian ceasefire, due to come into effect Tuesday.

A spokesman for Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry told Reuters there was a lull in fighting after the Azeri and Armenian foreign ministers reached the surprise ceasefire accord Thursday in the Kazakh capital Alma-Ata.

"We are tired of war. We must restore the national economy and we support any peace initiatives," he said.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Armenian presidential spokesman Ruben Shugaryan as saying Armenia was ready to accept ceasefire proposals delivered this week by a mediator

from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Several previous Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire accords have been short-lived. Some have even coincided with intensified fighting in a region where inter-ethnic feuding has become a way of life.

At least 2,000 people have been killed in the past four years of fighting over the enclave, populated mostly by Armenians but administered by Azerbaijan since 1923.

In the latest report of an Azeri bombing raid on Stepanakert, journalists from the city said 14 people were killed Thursday. Women and children were being evacuated.

Another refugee crisis was brewing further north in the Transcaucasus, where diplomatic efforts to prevent another bloody round of fighting between Georgian government forces and rebels in the Black Sea region of Abkhazia continued.

TASS said more than 5,000 people had been evacuated since Thursday to the Russian resort to Sochi, many arriving on warships.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, facing his worst crisis since taking power in March, was due to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow next Thursday.



Russian politicians fear the conflict could engulf Russia's southern border. More than 1,000 volunteers have already crossed into Georgia to join forces with the Abkhazians.

Interfax News Agency said Thursday that Russia's military commander in the Transcaucasus had protested to Georgia after four people had been wounded in shelling of Russian troops in the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi.

"The command warned that if shelling of the Russian army did not stop, the Georgian Guard's tanks and artillery emplacements would be destroyed by counter-fire," it said.

TASS said Mr. Shevardnadze

tried Thursday to arrange a meeting with Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba.

The former Soviet foreign minister asked the president of the Adyghe Republic in the northern Caucasus, Aslan Dzharmuv, to help organise talks in southern Russia.

Adyghe was one of the first north Caucasian republics to send volunteers in support of Abkhazian rebels bidding to establish a sovereign state.

But TASS said it had halted registration of volunteers. "There is an increasing inclination (in Adyghe) towards resolving the conflict in Abkhazia by political means," the agency said.

Russian airliner crashes on landing, all 82 die

MOSCOW (R) — All 82 people aboard a Russian airliner were killed when it clipped a building and slammed into the ground as it came into land at a town north-east of Moscow, officials said Friday.

The crash was the worst that state airline Aeroflot had suffered for eight years.

The twin-engine Tupolev Tu-134 was on final approach late Thursday night at Ivanovo, a textile town 250 kilometres from Moscow, when it crashed and disintegrated.

Marina Rykina, press officer at Russia's State Committee for Emergencies, said the dead comprised seven crew and 75 passengers, including five children. Local officials earlier put the death toll at 83.

"Debris from the aircraft is scattered over a large area. Firemen are working at the crash site. Police have closed the airport," ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

Air traffic officials said the control tower lost contact with the airliner as it approached the runway at a height of some 200 metres (600 feet).

"We have no idea what happened. It does not make sense at all," the duty officer at Ivanovo Airport said by telephone.

A local aviation official told TASS the airport had been shrouded in rain and mist at the time.

The flight came from Mineralnye Vody, a spa town in the northern Caucasus, with a stopover in Donetsk in Ukraine.

Mr. Rykina said the plane hit the ground three kilometres from the runway after hitting a two-storey apartment block. A woman inside the building was slightly injured.

Pensioner Tamara Lanina, who was also inside, told TASS that she heard an explosion just after the plane passed overhead and said the area was bathed in a blue glow.

Interfax News Agency quoted officials at the Russian Committee of Navigation as well as the Air Traffic Controllers' Trade Union as saying the plane had been coming in too low and the crew had ignored instructions from controllers to climb.

But both organisations immediately denied the report. "This information is ridiculous. It has not been backed up by the investigation into the crash," Vladimir Kononenko, head of the Air Controllers' Union, said in a telephone interview.

The crash was the worst since around 150 people were killed in October 1984 when a Tupolev Tu-154 airliner hit a sea tanker on the runway at the Siberian city of Omsk and exploded.

For decades Soviet air disasters were shrouded in a cloak of state secrecy but details of crashes reaching the West made it clear Aeroflot — the world's largest airline — had one of the worst safety records.

Accident details began to be disclosed after former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in 1985.

Northern Ireland counts human cost of 3,000 dead

DUBLIN (R) — As a Belfast family mourned the 3,000th victim of the Northern Irish conflict, this divided island reflected bitterly Friday on the appalling human cost of a grim war of attrition that shows no sign of ending.

Four years ago Protestant Gordon Wilson, clutching his dying daughter's hand as her life ebbed away beside the Emiskillen War Memorial, forgave the IRA bombers who tore his life apart in the picturesque border town.

Cathie Mary McGuinness, grieving over her husband's death in Belfast at the hands of Protestant extremists, said in 1990 of the yawning sectarian divide between two warring tribes: "Our tears are all the same — there is absolutely no difference."

Now yet another family grieves and the clock of death ticks on after 23 years of bombings and shootings in one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts.

On Thursday night, teenage Catholic football player Hugh McKibben was shot dead by a renegade Irish Republican in a bloody intercommunal feud.

He was killed at point blank range outside a Belfast sports club by two gunmen from the Irish People's Liberation Organisation (IPLO), an extremist splinter group riven by an inter-ethnic feud.

The victim, 19, had helped to carry the coffin last week of IPLO chief Jimmy Brown, shot dead when he returned to Belfast from Dublin.

In a phone call to a Belfast newspaper, the Belfast Brigade of the IPLO that had admitted responsibility for killing Brown said it also shot McKibben.

Police, who had accused the splinter group of drug-running, had feared Brown's death would spark bloody reprisals. Twelve people were killed in the last major feud between Irish republicans in 1987.

The gunmen arrived at the west Belfast Gaelic Sports Club in a taxi and then leapt onto the football team bus.

"They shouted a warning for no-one to move. They walked up to the man, singled him out and shot him at point blank range. Two other people were injured but not seriously," a police spokesman said.

One club official said "there was total pandemonium in the bus. At first nobody seemed to know what was happening. Everybody was trying to protect themselves."

"There must have been five or six shots. Everybody is horrified. It could have been wholesale slaughter. Everybody was in the line of fire. It could have been far far worse."

The victim was in a Gaelic football team from north Belfast. Police said a handgun was used in the killing.

To a world grown weary of what appears to be a senseless war fought out in a time warp on the edge of Europe, his death would barely merit a mention in the international media. On an island steeped in blood, it was front page news.

People reflected grimly on how their responses to violence have become blunted by the constant, endless stream of killings, the outpouring of hate.

One Dublin politician, asked to comment on a killing, once said: "Which will I say? Carnage? Heinous? Outrage? Ye — could write it yourself."

Catholic and Protestant politicians are under increasing pressure to come to terms when they resume peace talks next month after a summer break.

Britain is bidding to return the province to local power-sharing government after 18 years of direct rule from London.

Hurricane still torments south Florida, relief slow

PERRINE, Florida (AP) — Local officials angrily pleaded for help Thursday to break a logjam of food, clean water and other supplies for thousands of people left in need by hurricane Andrew.

Throughout the stricken area south of Miami, residents and officials alike were growing more impatient by the hour.

"We're doing everything we can where in the hell is the cavalry on this one?" demanded Kate Hale, director of Dade County's emergency management.

Federal emergency officials acknowledged distribution problems, and President George Bush's point man on the disaster, Transportation Secretary Andrew Card, Thursday promised "dramatic" improvements in the next 24 hours.

Defence Department spokesman Bob Hall said a dozen military transport planes with emergency gear had been dispatched. But he said "legal restrictions" limit the military's role inside U.S. borders in the absence of special authorisation for such assistance.

Other assistance, including tents and cots, would be available if requested, he said.

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The government estimated it would cost \$20 billion to \$30 billion to clean up and rebuild in Florida and care for residents displaced by the storm, which went on to strike a second blow at Louisiana's Cajun country Wednesday.

Louisiana wasn't as hard hit as Florida, and state officials there expressed relief that the storm's damage was limited. But that sentiment was lost on people in marshy coastal areas who returned to homes that had been badly damaged or destroyed.

Andrew had moved on to Mississippi by Thursday, but continued to torment people left in chaos — without diapers, radios, toilets, drinkable water and other necessities.

In Perrine, just south of Miami, small U-haul trucks sat outside destroyed homes while family members salvaged what they could. People had painted their street addresses and the names of their insurers on sides of the debris.

Private relief continued to flow into the region. The Red Cross said it was housing 45,000 people in 206 shelters in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

bookmaker, I.G. Index Plc, in which investors predict Electoral College vote totals.

The Electoral College elects the president based on the votes of representatives of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Each state awards its representatives' votes to the candidate who wins the largest share of the state's popular vote.

"So far, the markets are too close to call," with Mr. Clinton narrowing a large gap on Mr. Bush.

I.G. Index opened its market in March with the Republican candidate at 360 electoral votes and the Democrat at 178. (The market does not use the candidates' names so bets will stand if either should be replaced for some reason.)

Traders buy or sell into the market, betting the vote level up or down based on supply and demand. Investors can wager on credit lines of up to \$5,000 or about \$10,000. The market has 100 to 200 participants.

Mr. Bush has sunk steadily. On Thursday, the president was trading at 269 electoral votes to 264 for Mr. Clinton and five for independent drop-out Ross Perot.

While such an outcome would send the election to the House of Representatives (since 270 votes are needed to win), it also could mean a "game" from some Clinton investors. If you bought Clinton at 126 votes, his May level, the electoral vote difference would be 138. At \$10 per vote, that's a gross of \$1,380, or about \$2,760.

At least two markets have been created around the election. One is Iowa's non-profit academic experiment, where more than 500 investors whose accounts are limited to \$500 are swapping shares of George Bush and Bill Clinton.

The other is a money-making market run by a London financial

COLUMN

U.S. public favours condoms in schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans strongly favour the distribution of condoms in public schools, an idea that would have been unthinkable a decade ago, according to a Gallup poll. Some 68 per cent of the adults responding to the poll would approve of condom distribution in their local public schools. While 43 per cent said condoms should be given to all students who want them, 25 per cent said the schools should require parents' consent. Twenty-five per cent objected to schools issuing the contraceptive device at all. "Ten years ago, free distribution of condoms in public high schools" would have been unthinkable," said the poll that interviewed 1,306 adults between April and May.

"Today, the fast-growing AIDS epidemic has moved a number of big-city school systems to adopt a policy of condom distribution.... A trend is apparently in the making."

Dinosaur may have had 8 hearts, say scientists

LONDON (R) — A 15-metre (45-foot) dinosaur which lived some 200 million years ago may have had eight hearts to pump blood up to its head, said scientists writing in the latest edition of the Lancet medical journal. Scientists disagree over whether the herbivorous barosaurus normally stood giraffe-like foraging from the tops of trees or whether it held its neck parallel to the ground. But the report, released Friday in the respected British journal, argues that the shape of the vertebrae on a reconstructed barosaurus skeleton in New York's Natural History Museum suggest the former. If so, the dinosaur would have needed an extremely powerful cardiovascular system to pump blood from its chest to its head. Scientists from New York's Roosevelt Hospital Centre believe the barosaurus may have had a primary heart in its thorax, a secondary heart in the base of its neck and another three pairs of hearts at intervals up its 12-metre (36-foot) long neck. The immense pressure on the dinosaur's hearts from this arrangement would have predisposed it to strokes and early coronary disease, the scientists wrote.

6 artists honoured by Kennedy Centre

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six American performing artists were chosen as winners of the 1992 Kennedy Centre honours for outstanding contributions to the nation's cultural life. They are musician Lionel Hampton, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, dancer and actress Ginger Rogers, musician Mstislav Rostropovich, and choreographer Paul Taylor. The artists were selected by the centre's board of trustees. They will be honoured at a gala performance in the Kennedy Centre's Opera House on Dec. 6, after a reception by President and Mrs. Bush at the White House. Kennedy Centre Chairman James D. Wolfensohn praised the honorees "for enhancing the lives of people around the world and enriching the culture of our nation."

What is head of state worth? \$123,000

JAKARTA (R) — The lives of heads of state attending next week's summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta have been insured for 250 million rupiah (\$123,000) each, double that of their foreign ministers, the official Antara News Agency said. It quoted an executive of the private Indonesian firm PT Aken Raharja Insurance Taswin as saying the summit committee had insured all delegates through his company. The several hundred journalists covering the meeting are also covered, but are worth only a tenth of a government leader at 25 million rupiah (\$12,300). The summit of the 106-member movement of mainly developing countries runs from Sept. 1-6.

Judges oust aspirant for overexposure

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A beauty queen contestant scandalised a national audience by waltzing topless through the bathing suit competition in a live TV broadcast. Julie Ramirez, 22, one of 23 candidates competing for a shot as the country's representative to the Miss Universe and Miss World pageants, was disqualified.

3,000 police drafted into Rostock for weekend

ROSTOCK, Germany (R) — The east German port of Rostock enjoyed its first peaceful night after five nights of anti-foreigner riots, but 3,000 policemen were drafted into the city to counter an expected upsurge in violence at the weekend.

There were only minor scuffles Thursday night near an abandoned hostel for refugees which has been a focal point for trouble since neo-Nazi gangs attacked it last Saturday.

Eight people were detained overnight compared with 146 the night before. Ambulances picked up hawtlers too drunk to take care of themselves or who had been knocked down by their companions. The streets were clear soon after midnight.

The already heavy police presence in the city was being doubled in cope with an anti-racism demonstration Saturday which could lead to fighting between the right-wing gangs and anarchist and leftist groups.

"We will have 3,000 policemen here at the weekend. We will be everywhere," police spokesman Volker Hori told Reuters. "This is the biggest ever police operation in connection with anti-foreigner violence."

Security officials in Berlin said maps of Rostock were being distributed in the city among anarchist groups, known as "Autonomous men", who have repeatedly fought street battles with police in recent years.

Germany's leftist and far-right extremist groups are united in their hatred of the police and the established order and their willingness to use violence.

About 200 Berlin anarchists gave a possible forerunner of things to come when they tried to disrupt a live television debate on the Rostock riots Thursday night, pelting participants with stones when they arrived at TV studios.

Riot police eventually drove the gang away.

In Potsdam, outside Berlin, three youths were arrested after clashes between right and left-wing gangs.

Berlin officials said they expected around 600 anarchists from the capital to go to Rostock for Saturday's demonstration.

The Mecklenburg state government defended its handling of the riots in a parliamentary debate in nearby Schwerin.

Interior Minister Lothar Kupfer admitted mistakes had been made but rejected opposition calls for his resignation.

"I would not like to omit an explicit apology to our foreign fellow-citizens for the running amok in Rostock which was aimed primarily at asylum-seekers," he said.

Mr. Kupfer said a controversial police decision to withdraw from the home for over an hour Monday, enabling rioters to set fire to the building, had been necessary to replace exhausted police with fresh units.

Around 200 Romanian gypsies were evacuated from the hostel Monday and moved to a former east German army base in woods about five kilometres from the city.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. firefighters get upper hand

REDDING, California (R) — Firefighters were bringing a massive wildfire under control after it consumed 65,000 acres (26,300 hectares), destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands to evacuate small towns in northern California. An army of 3,400 weary firefighters used shovels and bulldozers to carve the final stretch of a 130-mile (209-km) firebreak through dry, steep terrain in Shasta County in an effort to choke off California's worst firestorm in five years. From the air, helicopters dropped 3,000-gallon (11,356-litre) buckets of water on the flames, while planes dropped loads of flame retardant. The fire, which authorities believe was intentionally set scorched more than 100 square miles (259 square km) of forest and bush — an area twice the size of San Francisco, which is about 200 miles (322 km) south. Elsewhere, eight major fires were burning in half a dozen western states Thursday, and officials predicted that six years of drought would make the 1992 fire season one of the worst on record.

China opens embassy in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — China's flag was hoisted over Seoul Thursday to mark the opening of Peking's new embassy in South Korea following the establishment of diplomatic ties. The Chinese national anthem played, the red and gold flag fluttered in the rain and a sign declaring the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was unveiled at the compound that previously served as the Chinese trade representative office. The foreign ministers of South Korea and China signed a protocol Monday establishing ties which formally ended four decades of cold war hostility. Taipei responded by cutting ties with Seoul, its sole Asian diplomatic partner. The Taiwanese flag was lowered for the last time Monday as diplomats prepared to leave the embassy. China will take over the classical oriental building when Taiwanese officials have completed their departure, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said, but gave no date.

Earthquake kills 4 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A strong earthquake jolted Pakistan's southern Baluchistan province early Friday, killing at least four people, local officials said. The death toll was expected to rise, Pakistani News Agency (APP) said. Among the worst-hit areas was the town of Johan about 100 km (60 miles) south of the provincial capital Quetta, it said. The tremor measured 5.3 on the Richter Scale and struck at 5:53 a.m. (0053 GMT). Earthquakes of five on the scale can cause heavy damage in populated areas.

Khmer Rouge sticks to rejected demands

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge leader Khiev Samphan has met Japanese and Thai officials trying to persuade his guerrillas to implement Cambodian peace accords but stuck to demands already rejected by the Phnom Penh government. The Khmer Rouge is refusing to join the crucial disarmament phase of last October's accords, saying Cambodia's U.N. peacekeeping operation is interfering them in favour of the Vietnamese-installed government. Khiev Samphan stuck to demands for the creation of consultative committees to work with the U.N. in supervising the administration and police of the government and the three guerrilla groups. Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Thai Foreign Ministry, Saroj Chavavaviratt told reporters. Phom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen has already rejected the demands, saying they fall outside the peace agreement. The Khmer Rouge wants the power of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a government-guerrilla reconciliation body, increased at the expense of the government.

Mrs. Marcos delays burial for husband

MANILA (R) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos has called off plans to bring her husband's body home for burial next week after rejecting a minister's offer to ferry the corpse back from Hawaii in a cargo plane. "I will not subject my husband to that indignity of being put in a cargo plane," the widow of the former dictator said in a statement Friday. "Sept. 1 is off." The family had planned to bring the former president's remains home next Tuesday for burial in his northern home province of Ilocos Norte after a nine-day wake. The Marcoses have been accused of plundering \$5 billion from the Philippine treasury.

Diana's friend involved in crash

LONDON (AP) — The alleged mystery man on a taped phone call to Princess Diana was involved in a car collision which injured a newspaper photographer, police said. James Gibbey, 35, who has eluded the press for a couple of days, was in a car carrying three employees of the Lotus car racing firm, for which he works. It was not known who was driving. Norfolk police said both cars were damaged in a head-on collision on a private road near the Lotus firm in Norfolk in eastern England. Andrew Styczynski, a photographer for the Sun, was treated for bruises and cuts at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and discharged. There was no indication of injuries among the three in other car. On Thursday, the Sun reported that it had received a tape recording of a conversation between the Duke and Duchess of York. It said the call recorded without their knowledge showed their marriage was in trouble two years before they separated in March. It did not publish excerpts.

ANC rejects Pretoria overtures

CAPE TOWN (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has rejected government initiatives to rid the South African police of racism and to convene multi-party talks about a federal democracy.

The ANC said in statements Thursday the government was trying to restructure South African society unilaterally ahead of a proposed transition from white rule to multi-racial democracy.

Law and Order Minister Herens Kriel told a news conference in Pretoria that 13 police generals would retire early, partly to make way for the country's first black police generals.

"Sweeping initiatives are to be implemented to restore the credibility of the police and to heighten its effectiveness," he said.

The ANC accuses the police of committing atrocities during 40 years of apartheid and of bias towards whites and the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party, its main black rival for power.

Mr. Kriel said some policemen were slow to adapt to the fact that the ANC, the "enemy" until President F.W. de Klerk launched his reform drive in 1990, was now legitimate.

"We still have a lot of work to do to change the hearts and minds... to sensitise all serving members on an urgent basis about the changed environment," he said.

Bush campaign makes another top-level shakeup

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's campaign announced another top-level shakeup as the president stepped up his rhetoric against Democratic rival Bill Clinton.

In a surprise move, the White House announced that former Commerce Secretary Robert Moshbacher had stepped down as general chairman of Mr. Bush's reelection effort, just days after former Secretary of State James Baker came in to try to breathe new life into the struggling Republican campaign.

Mr. Moshbacher, a long-time political associate of the president, was named to direct all fund-raising for the Republican Party. The change came on the fourth day of Mr. Baker's reign as White House chief of staff.

Bush campaign officials said Mr. Moshbacher was somewhat surprised by the shift but they denied he had been moved to give Mr. Baker more power in the reelection campaign.

Mr. Moshbacher denied being forced out.

"I don't think that's (Baker's) motive. He's got all the control he needs," Mr. Moshbacher said in a telephone interview. "He and the president feel they need me to raise the rest of the money (for Republican candidates)."

Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton and his vice presidential running mate, Senator Al Gore, were in Texas on their fourth bus trip of the campaign as they sought to stake out votes in Mr. Bush's adopted home state.

Polls show that Mr. Bush is trailing Mr. Clinton, the governor

of Arkansas, by 10 to 15 points and that the president's bounce after last week's Republican convention seems to be dwindling.

Mr. Bush got another dose of bad news Thursday on the U.S. economy, an area in which voters say Mr. Bush has performed poorly.

The government said economic growth slowed in the second quarter to a 1.4 per cent rate, compared with a 2.9 per cent rate the first three months of the year.

Mr. Bush, on a campaign swing through the midwest states of Ohio and Missouri, stepped up his attacks on Mr. Clinton, accusing him of "fear-mongering" and saying his tax plans would alienate foreign investors.

In what has become a familiar pattern, Mr. Clinton responded quickly — unlike four years ago when Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis was attacked — branding Mr. Bush's charges as "scare tactics, lies."

At several campaign stops, Mr. Bush attacked Mr. Clinton's plan to raise \$45 million in taxes from foreign companies and investors and ridiculed him ambivalence on embracing the free-trade pact recently reached with Mexico and Canada.

He said in St. Louis that Mr. Clinton